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YOUR MACHINE

AMIGA

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• All around the world you've been looking for this for your PC

What's New

Get the most from BT's digital system with an ISDN adaptor, word processors, map making PC software and a dBase to C translator – page 10

COVER DISK 6

Express software: **dying to get stuck into your packed Cover Disk ? Turn to page 12 for all you need to know**

THE EXPRESS FEATURE

TIMEWORKS DTP by GST

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ST desktop publishing

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The Amiga, ST & PC pages

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Hard hitting review of ***The Blues Brothers*** and terrific tips for ***ELF*** and ***Brat* PLUS:** the latest news – pages 60 & 61

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Extra super paint package

One of the Mac's most ancient and revered paint packages, *SuperPaint*, has been given a facelift.

Publisher, Aldus, has released version 3 of the software and has incorporated a whole host of enhancements.

These include:

- Black and white, and colour support
- 16 million colours available to users of 8-bit monitors
- Texture fills
- Hot keys

Aldus even claims that users can attain "photo-realistic" projects. Not only has more technical wizardry been introduced to *SuperPaint*, Aldus' project manager, Cindy Taylor, also maintains that it is easier to use and that "users will benefit from a reduced learning curve."

System requirements are for a Mac Plus or up with 2Mb of RAM and a hard drive. It is also System 7 compatible.

Price in the United States is $199. This looks as if it will maintain a straight sterling for dollar exchange when it eventually hits the UK next year. ■

EXPRESS...

The Japanese are well known lovers of gadgets but this time they have gone too far for their own good. So many mobile phones are being purchasnd that NTT – Japan's largest telecommunications company – fears that all the numbers will run out by 1995.

...SNIPPET

Cray computer proves 'green' ocean theory

British scientists using a Cray Supercomputer have discovered that oceans absorb more carbon dioxide than had previously been supposed.

The Cray, part of the £10 million Fine Resolution Antarctic Model (FRAM) project, showed that the Agulhas Current carries an enormous 1 billion mega-watts of heat absorbed from the atmosphere.

Data from the Cray disproved theories that water was warmed as it flowed from the Pacific, via South America, and into the Atlantic. Instead the heat comes directly from the atmosphere, showing that oceans are as good at controlling the greenhouse effect as trees are. ■

Have Laplink will travel

Portable computing with laptops and notebooks is becoming more and more popular and with it comes a growth in peripherals.

The latest to hit this healthy scene is *LapLink Pro* from Travelling Software.

This piece of file transfer software is compatible with more than 60 Hayes-compatible modems, and enables users to transfer data to and from computers anywhere in the world.

For those of us too busy to bother with protocols, dialling commands and setups, the program is a real boon. It handles all this for you.

According to a spokesman for the company, once all these peripheral actions have been handled, "The user can then transfer the files and manage the disk drives of both the computers as though they were only a few feet apart".

An added attraction, according to Travelling Software's European sales and marketing manager, David Aldridge is "The fact that we have broken free from the cable only scenario and taken the modem route opens up a whole new dimension to portable computing with no limitations to PC file transfer."

The system also makes use of TS's Blackbird communication technology. This data compression function offers parallel transfer in 4 or 8-bit modes giving a claimed 20-60 per cent increase in speed over other comms systems.

Laplink Pro costs £125. For more information call 0753 831855. ■

• *Laplink Pro* – opening up a new dimension in portable computing

On-line system manager requested virus to be uploaded

VIRUS ALERT ON COMPUSERVE

Compuserve, the UK's most popular on-line system was subject to a virus uploaded on the request of one of its own forum managers last week.

The on-line system which has around 200 forum areas of special interest, was in no way to blame for the act of foolishness. And the virus, contained on a file call MOUSE.COM, did not actually make it into the public forum.

It was found in an American-instigated area called Virus Forum run by McAfee Associates in the USA.

UPLOADING MISTAKE

According to Compuserve's UK general manager, Andrew Grey: "Rather foolishly, a forum manager asked for a virus to be uploaded. There were nine downloads from that area in the UK, but this is a forum dedicated to the study and eradication of viruses. The upload of the virus was a mistake and it doesn't change the benefits to be gained from the system".

Asked whether this could happen again, Mr Grey told *Express*: "This was the first time it has happened. The manager was taken into a meeting immediately, and has been told that such an action should not take place again".

POTENTIAL DISASTER

The virus was in fact resident on the Virus Forum for nine days, from 9 to [illegible] September. In this time there were nine downloads.

Andrew Grey said: "Obviously it was not a wise thing to do. And had it been uploaded to a MicroSoft or Adobe forum for example, it could have been an absolute disaster".

Because the virus, called Taiwan 4, only actually affects a file called AUTOCAD.EXE, the main system file for Autodesk's *AutoCad* computer aided design system, even if it had got into any of the public sectors it is unlikely to have done much damage.

However, the mere fact that the head of a specialists forum requested the uploading of a live virus to an International on-line system, does raise serious questions.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

John McAfee, the American responsible for the forum, claims he was unaware that it was possible to download infected files from his own forum. McAfee also states that of the nine people who downloaded the file, only one contacted the sysop. The virus was not spotted by the sysop, but by one of the people who downloaded it and then contacted Scotland Yard.

Mr McAfee has taken all the blame on his own shoulders, and no blame whatsoever should be put on Compuserve. ■

HOW THEY EXPLAINED IT AWAY

This is an extract from the the message run in the Virus Forum on Compuserve in order to alert users to the virus drama.

"IMPORTANT NOTE – PLEASE READ

As a result of this error, we have decided to close down Library 0, the Suspect Virus upload library. Forum users may continue to submit suspected viruses for review through Compuserve Mail... This change will prevent this error from recurring. We regret that anyone may have downloaded the infected file in error."

Shoot from the lip

"But recession is an opportunity for change, not a reason for it"
IBM UK's general manager, Nick Temple, proving that tautology is valid jargon after all.

"From our headquarters in Reading, Commlink has a firm vantage point overlooking the wider European arena".
MD of Commlink, Bruce Reid, setting up the jewel of Berkshire as the new European capital.

"In the leisure hardware market, Atari have slit their throats and hung themselves up to bleed."
Gremlin's Ian Stewart commenting on the ST. (from *Computer Trade Weekly*)

"Throw away the machines"
The gospel according to French obstetrician, Michel Odent as reported in the *Guardian*.

" Obsoleting an engine or transmission computer because of a software change will soon be history"
Dennis Florence of Chrysler adding to the English language with some verbing of his own.

Trumped up!

American millionaire Donald Trump, who has been unlucky in love and finance over the last year, has had his ideal mate chosen for him. By a computer.

The marriage minded machine says that crumpled Trump's sweetheart would have the body of *Fabulous Baker Boy* star Michelle Pfieffer, the eyes of Madonna and the bust of Dolly Parton. It did not manage to comment if she would also have the avarice of Scrooge McDuck. ■

US company blamed for down fall of the ill-fated PC2000

AMSTRAD IS SET TO SUE AGAIN

In what looks more and more like a concerted bid by troubled Amstrad to claw back cash from its faulty PC2000 range, it is embroiled in yet another multi-million pound legal battle.

The new £80 million wrangle is with US company Western Digital, and comes just weeks after an £87 million suit was filed against US hard drive makers Seagate.

The latest case centres on Amstrad's contention that Western Digital had supplied it with WD384R hard disks which were not properly specified and caused Amstrad massive financial losses when it had to recall its PC2286 computers.

Western maintains that, because the drives were shipped in 1988 and Amstrad did not file any claim until 18 months after this, it will contest the suit.

The American company says it could counter-sue Amstrad for costs incurred trying to help Alan Sugar's company out of its problems.

DISK QUALITY

Added irony comes from the fact that Amstrad claimed that Western's drives were not as good as those supplied by Tandon for the ill-fated PC2000. The disk drives that Western, which took over Tandon's disk drive operations in 1988, supplied were actually made by Tandon in the first place.

• **Alan Sugar is trying to retrieve some of Amstrad's lost cash - and a lot of it. The PC2000 has caused Amstrad more financial problems than anything it has produced so far**

This case comes shortly after Amstrad set its sights on hard drive maker, Seagate (see *Express* 151) in a calim against £87 million worth of faulty STR277R hard drives which were fitted to Amstrad PC2386s.

Amstrad's only comment on the matter came in the form of two terse press releases both of which finished with: "Amstrad has been advised by its attorneys not to make any further public comment about this litigation until it is successfully concluded".

PC2000 BITES BACK

Amstrad is known to have large numbers of PC2000s littering its warehouses. These two claims on its US suppliers will go some way to recouping some of the lost capital invested in these machines. But more importantly for the company, winning the cases will raise its image in the public eye. At the moment Amstrad is keeping a low profile. The obvious reason underlying this is that if it loses one or both cases, the perception will be that it was responsible for the poor quality of the machines. However, if it is victorious, then the blame will be shifted across the Atlantic.

Although the money will be more than useful to the company which has just suffered a 54 per cent slump in profits from nearly £50 million to £20 million, it appears to be concentrating on its reputation. Having still not made a significant impact on the highly lucrative US market, these cases could prove highly significant for Amstrad in terms of public image. ■

Atari up in arms about PD abuse

Atari has released a particularly peeved press release relating to its software appearing in the Public Domain.

UK software manager for the company, Bob Katz said: "Atari (UK) has threatened legal action against individuals or companies found to be illegally distributing its copyrighted software".

It is thought that the product which sparked off the rumpus was the *Neochrome* paint program. Versions 5 and 6 of this were released into the Public Domain following a disagreement between the author and the company. However, since then all versions of the program have been firmly Atari's copyright.

This made little difference to certain individuals who have cracked later version, and released them into the public domain as *Neochrome Master*.

Thirty companies have been contacted by Atari with regard to the problem. As yet no legal action has been taken. Apparently Atari is relying on the good intentions of PD libraries and other outlets to put a stop to the distribution of its copyrighted product.

As Bob Katz comments: "Atari unanimously supports the notion of Public Domain, but recent abuse of the system has forced the company to take action". ■

Apple hits the High Street

Apple Computer UK is no longer content with its Apple Centres as the main way to get its message across to prospective buyers.

It has decided to set up an 'Applepoint' retail outlet in conjunction with one of its biggest outlets, Thames Valley Systems.

This first Applepoint, based in Slough, is the vanguard for an aggressive attack by Apple on the UK High Street market. Apple UK's director of channel development, the man responsible for liaison with retailers, Chris Calvert, confirmed this: "I look forward to other High Street Applepoint shops appearing over the next year".

Applepoints are already familiar sights in Europe. Essentially they are areas in existing shops where shoppers can pop in and try out Apple's range of machines including the Mac Classic, and the new computers which Apple is known to have lined up for release. ■

That's all white son

• **Meet Jimmy Whirlwind White at the World of Commodore show and pick up a few tips**

The World of Commodore Show offers more then just a great chance to see the full Commodore range, meet *New Computer Express* journos and attend the biggest computing extravaganza in Europe. You could also get to meet Jimmy White.

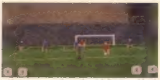
Jimmy, who has confirmed his place in the snooker firmament, will be signing copies of *Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker* from Virgin games on Friday 15 November, you might also be

Souness from the sidelines

You too can feel the humiliation of defeat by a team of amateurs like Kuusysi Lahti. You rant and rave like Graeme Souness from the sidelines as you play Zeppelin Games' *Graeme Souness's Vector Football*.

Programmed by ex-Domark boy Glyn Humphries, the game is already being touted as "more reasonable than any previous 3D footy game even if the players do have thighs the size of Anfield". High praise for a game which has not taken the overhead view à la *Kick Off*.

There are options for either one or two player games in an eight team tournament. But best of all you can build and rebuild the stadium by adding or removing crowd barriers, stands, goal nets, pitch lines, corner flags and even the pitch patterns.



• **Now you can sit on the sidelines and look at your boots as your team goes down to a bunch of amateurs from Finland**

All the figures are drawn in vector style rather than sprites much like *3D Sports Boxing*. *Graeme Souness's Vector Football* is available for the ST and Amiga at a price of £24.99. ■

EXPRESS...

Signbank is a new, computer controlled, banking system in Australia. It has been set up to electronically store customer's signatures. Nowadays, instead of moving copies of signatures from branch to branch, the whole thing is automated.

...SNIPPET

Apple MacSki

Apple Computer has started an all-out media campaign to make its name in Russia.

The company has chosen as its slogan a phrase which would probably have been laughed out of every ad agency in the West as being too wordy. It is as follows: 'A solid US' family has serious intentions to live and work in the USSR'.

The ad will run in *Isvestia* among other news media, but will not appear in *Pravda* – the paper of the State. It will also appear on Russian television. ■

The new age sage

Are you in need of physical and mental relaxation and do you have the desire to learn?

Well throw away all that ambient music and get ready to have your brain speeded up. A new way to accelerate your learning using respiratory bio-feedback and audio-optical signals has been discovered in London.

The brain absorbs information much faster during periods of deep relaxation and in this state the mind focuses only on the information being presented.

The London Neuro Centre, famed for the Mind Machine, is now selling a new device called the SITA portable which relaxes you by monitoring your breathing patterns via sensors and then feeding them back to you.

Once a consistent breathing pattern has been registered a tape automatically begins playing educational material. Priced at £345 it is available from London Neuro Centre on 071 284 4769. ■

YABBA DABBA DOO!

"Hey Fred!" "Yo Barney, what's up?" "We've finally made it on to the Sega Master System care of those guys at Grandslam and Sega!"

Based on the famous Hanna Barbera cartoon characters the game is spread over four segments, which starts with a bit of home decoration for Fred. While trying to keep Pebbles in her pen, Fred must also keep hold of the elusive paintbrush.

Fred and Barney then visit Bedrock Super Bowl for the Bowling final. But the game is not over yet as Fred returns to find Pebbles has escaped. He must find and rescue her before she comes to harm. Released later this month *The Flintstones* costs £29.99. Contact: 081 655 3494. ■

THE FLINTSTONES

• Stone-Age capers with the Flintstone crew on the Sega Master System

EC regulations force Amstrad to claim that PCWs are not expandable

PCW BUS STOPS

Amstrad was forced to modify the design of its latest word processing workhorse, the PCW 9256 and PCW 9512 Plus to keep in line with the EC, *Express* can reveal.

To adhere to new regulations which come into effect in 1992 and concern computer emissions which interfer with radio signals, Amstrad has been forced into claiming that the machines are not expandable, when in fact they are.

It has also been forced to 'pretend' that the expansion bus at the rear of the machine, in fact a simple card edge which takes the RS232 interfaces and other peripherals available to the PCW, does not even exist. It is instead calling it a 'hardware test' port.

This has lead to rumours that the new machines are totally incompatible with the previous 8000 series and the PCW 9512, both of which have fully exposed edge connectors.

RUMOURS ARE RIFE

The confusion about compatibilty problems arises from the fact that, although the new card edge is mechanically identical to that used in the preceding series, it is hidden deep within the back of the machines and is covered by a plastic plate.

This means that, without modification, older peripherals such as RAM-pack upgrades, and RS232 interfaces will not fit the new machines.

• Amstrad's new PCW: rumours of expansion disaster are unfounded

Manufacturers such as SCA systems are maintaining that this will not lead to "horror stories" regarding the new PCWs.

Peter Mydlarz of SCA told *Express*: "The new expansion ports have had to be covered and hidden in order to comply with new EC rules. This does make them inaccessible to currently available add-ons. However, we will certainly be developing modified units to cope with this problem".

Locomotive, however, has run into a problem with its recently launched *LocoLink* PC-to-PCW connectivity package. The company's technical director, Richard Clayton, said: "There is a slight problem with the new port on the 9526 in that, in order to abide by many of EC regulations especially in Germany, Amstrad has been forced to say that the PCW is not expandable. So it has covered the port.

"It has also placed it low-down on the machine. This means that if you connect many of the old peripherals, such as LocoLink, they will touch the floor. Frankly though, because there are a variety of PD programs which can read 3.5-inch, 9 sector, CP/M disks on the PC, you probably don't require LocoLink on the new machines. However, if public demand is great enough, we will produce a compatible version".

TESTING TIMES

According to sources close to Amstrad, the card edge is being termed as a 'hardware test' rather than an expansion slot.

The unnamed source also told *Express*: "It is well known that PCWs kick out RF (radio frequency) interference like no one's business. To cope with this the company has been forced into burying the port at the back of the machine, and also to cover it with the plate.

"Removing the cover is child's play. It look's like a fudge put on by Amstrad as a last minute thing rather than a pre-planned piece of design. It's only held on by a couple of screws and, once removed, the slot is immediatiely ready for use. The only problem I can see is that by doing this you invalidate the warranty".

We called Amstrad to confirm this, and were told by Nick Hewer on behalf of the company: "No, this isn't the case as far as we know. Information isn't clear at the moment. But there appears to be no problem with warranties".

OUT WITH THE OLD

However, all is not rosey in the garden for owners of the older machines.

With developers having to move over to the new machines, it will not be too long before it becomes economically unviable to make peripherals and dongles for the old PCWs.

This will have one major effect on owners of the old machines who wish to upgrade. They will have to buy the new PCWs or leave that format behind in favour of PCs.

This also applies to software. It is far easier, and cheaper, for software houses to duplicate the hugely popular 3.5-inch disk format – which is used on PCs, Amigas, STs, and Macs – than for the 3-inch – only used on the PCW, CPC and Spectrum.

With news that several unbranded 3-inch disk manufacturers have stopped trading, leaving only one producer of 3-inch disks remaining – Maxell – the position for the older PCWs looks more and more dubious. For further news on this see next week's issue of *Express*. ■

A pocketful of LEO

UK-based DIP Computers, known for its hand-held machines, has produced a new MS-DOS compatible machine – the LEO.

Weighing just 310 grammes, the LEO has a variety of expansion options using four built-in ports. An optical interface using an infra-red link enables users to transmit data to a personal computer. There is also a built-in barcode reader and serial connectors for printers and modems.

Built-in memory cards mean the LEO can be supplied with a variety of memory configurations. Enabling expansion and easy maintenance these cards are available up to 8Mb. They can also be configured up to 640K as RAM memory with the remainder as a solid state DOS disk.

Power supply comes in the form of a rechargeable battery pack on which the LEO can run for up to 50 hours. For more information call 0483 301555. ■

EXPRESS...

Next year's generation of Chrysler cars will have computers on board which will help to monitor fuel consumption, engine performance and transmission driveability.

The system will use Flash memory so that the chips can be upgraded to cope with any new technological advances which the company intends to introduce by 1995.

...SNIPPET

Nintendo nurturing

If McDonald's can get away with a hamburger university, why on earth should Nintendo not set up a national curriculum for computer games?

No reason at all. This is why yet another school for Nintendo games designers has been set up in Japan.

A company called Enix, makers of *Dragon Quest* which has already sold 10 million units, is the master behind this class. Called the Enix Game School, the establishment will produce 135 qualified programmers for the NES, Game Boy and Super NES machines each year.

In order to 'qualify' for admittance, students will have to pay out a vast 1.5 million yen (about £6,900, the same as a UK public school fee).

Nintendo and Enix will both gain new games and corporately loyal staff. ■

COMMENT

The launch of the PCW six years ago was a move which earned Amstrad – rightly enough – the accolade of making computing accessible to the masses.

The all-in-one package, complete with printer, monitor and keyboard, hit its niche market at an aggressive price, and with ferocious accuracy.

Small wonder, then, that the company has decided to consolidate its success with the machine, and bring two new models on to the market.

The two new machines, the PCW9256 and 9512 Plus, demonstrate continued evidence of Amstrad's pragmatism – a trait which is largely responsible for the company's commercial success to date.

COSMETICS

Differing mainly in cosmetic terms, the new models are simply a more streamlined, state-of-the-art version of their predecessors. The major departure from the original specification is the arrival of the 3.5-inch drive as standard – creating, effectively, a PCW version of the PC.

What this adds to the PCW is the ability (with the appropriate software) to transfer data from CP/M to MS-DOS format machines – without the need to invest in costly hardware upgrades.

NEW PRODUCTS

The industry is responding with characteristic speed to Amstrad's obligation to conceal the 9256's expansion port. SCA Systems will have finished work on a special adaptor to allow immediate accommodation of add-ons, as the new PCW hits the High Street. Major software houses, such as Locomotive, have already upgraded their products to the new format.

RIGHT FORMULA?

The PCW has suffered at the hands of the computer snob for years; with a lack of direct competition, it has, unfairly, been ranked alongside entry-level PCs, and has generally emerged scathed.

The new range of machines bears witness to the strength and popularity of the PCW – and builds on a longevity scarce enjoyed by counterparts in the PC market. The PCW formula was right in the mid-80s; today, there is no reason why it cannot be right as well. ■

By Sophie Lankenau, editor of 8000 Plus, *the UK's most popular PCW magazine*

Hardware manufacturers' consortium creates new standard

MULTIMEDIA PCs 'ARE THE FUTURE'

The official launch of the next stage in the PC evolution, Multimedia PCs (MPC), took place in the USA on Tuesday.

Tandy announced that it would be setting up specialised outlets to popularise its new machines. Its MPC models all have the company's CRD-1000 CD-ROM player built-in, and are based on the 80386sx and 80386 processors. They range in price for $2,799 to $5,499.

A consortium of 12 major league, PC-compatible hardware manufacturers has created a new standard which Tandy's Vice President, Howard Elias, described last week as "the future of personal computers."

His remarks were made at a forum in New York City last week where nine companies – including Microsoft and Broderbund – demonstrated multimedia products which will run on any PC conforming to the new standard.

BASIC STANDARDS

The consortium, known as the Multimedia PC Marketing Council, has created a new trademark – MPC – which can be licensed by developers of multimedia applications. The Council hopes that MPC will become a widely accepted standard, and that purchasers will look for the MPC logo before they buy.

Theoretically, any computer which conforms to the basic MPC standards will be able to run any MPC-branded application. The basic hardware requirements include a minimum 80286 processor, 2Mb of RAM, a colour VGA display, a CD-ROM drive and the ability to record and play back sound.

BIG NAME BACKING

Numerous big-name companies are backing MPC, including Microsoft – whose Windows graphic user interface (GUI), together with some multimedia extensions, is included in the list of basic requirements.

US company Britannica Software has already produced MPC-compatible software: the entire *Encyclopedia Britannica* on CD-ROM, and companies like Broderbund and Maxwell Electronic Publishing also have MPC-compatible applications available.

While MPC does have its opponents – including industry giant IBM – the standard is already gaining acceptance, with companies like Philips and Zenith expected to produce MPC products in the near future. According to Howard Elias of Tandy, "we fundamentally believe that multimedia is a function of PCs. This is not a niche; this is the future."

However, Critics say that MPC is underspecified, and needs a more powerful basic configuration if it is to be of any real use. And some feel that Apple has a hold on the multimedia marketplace which is too strong to break.

THE FUTURE OF PCS?

If it gains widespread recognition, MPC could become a major standard in the PC marketplace. Microsoft's involvement will certainly help it along, but ultimately the consumer will have to be convinced if MPC is to really succeed; numerous other attempts to create standard hardware configurations – such as the ill-fated MSX – have already shown that it is all too easy to fail. ■

Elonex Ships PC-320X range

• A British 386 for under £1,000? Yes indeed. It comes with all the standard software and hardware, but there's also a neat maintenance deal thrown in

Elonex has brought out a new range of desktop computers with an 'all in one' motherboard design.

The £995 PC-320XM Slimline model features a 20MHz Intel 386SX processor with 16K cache, 1Mb RAM, 40Mb hard disk, 102-key keyboard and 14-inch colour Super VGA display.

All models come complete with the latest version of *MS-DOS 5*, *Windows 3* and a Microsoft compatible serial mouse. The all-in-one motherboard features a Super VGA display adaptor, floppy and hard disk controllers, and one parallel and two serial ports built-in.

RAM can be expanded to a total of 16Mb, cache memory can be upgraded to 64K. And an 80387SX maths co-processor can be added for heavy number-crunching applications such as computer aided design (CAD).

For the first year, on-site maintenance is available at £25, and is then charged at 8 per cent of invoiced costs for each subsequent year.

Contact Elonex on 081-452 4444. ■

U can touch this

Following on from Psion's new Organiser (*Express* 151), ACS Data Limited has released its own hand-held computer, the TouchPC.

Called the TouchPC because of its touch-sensitive LCD display screen, the computer is a PC compatible based on a 9.54MHz V40 microprocessor. It features two serial ports, a parallel port, a BCR port (for barcode readers) and, with the addition of a 'cradle' to place the machine in, infra-red optical communications are possible for high speed data transfers without using wires.

The machine comes with a basic 640K of system memory, while an extra 1Mb is available using SRAM cards.

Data is stored using a Jeida 4 card drive which supports battery-backed SRAM, ROM, EPROM, EEPROM and variety of other formats. A Jeida 4 card drive is available for PCs to ensure data can be transferred between machines.

• A steady hand is all you need to operate ACS Data's TouchPC – it uses a touch sensitive screen to input information

The cradle for the TouchPC also features an additional serial interface, a RS485 multi-drop network interface, parallel port and a PC keyboard port. Available in bulk in late December, the TouchPC will cost £850. A price for the cradle add-on has yet to be announced.Contact ACS on 061 873 8323. ■

Attention all Monsters!

ST, PC and Amiga users are in for a treat from the Monster Klub.

This new organisation offers up to 30 per cent off recommended retail prices on software, hardware and accessories. And you don't even have to be a member to gain the benefits.

As an added attraction to *Express* readers, the first 10 people who quote this article when ordering ST or Amiga software will be given a copy of the highly rated *Monster Business* game. Monster Klub can be contacted on 0603 503382. ■

WHAT'S NEW

New computer products are coming at you thick and fast. But being a discerning user, you don't want to deal with the pap. Read on for the facts...

•The 486s are coming! The 486s are coming! And this tower system from Osicom is coming for under £7,000!

I say, I say EISA

PRODUCT: 486 tower PC
NAME: Executive TW486/33e
COMPATIBILITY: PC

Amstrad may be trying to flog 286s again, and a 33MHz 386 might be the height of some people's ambition, but the real flavour of the month are PCs based on Intel's 80486 processor.

Osicom's new Executive version comes with 8Mb of interleaved RAM which is expandable to 64Mb, a 128K RAM cache, 330Mb hard disk, and it supports the highly popular Weitek maths co-processor. For communications with the outside world, and connectivity to hardware add-ons there are two serial ports and one parallel port. The unit also makes use of Extended Industry Standard Architecture (EISA).

Osicom seems to believe that the VGA-compatible tower unit is 'compact'. Well even a cursory glance at the photograph above should disabuse most users of this. What it lacks in height, it makes up for in width. Nevertheless, it is an impressivey specified machine, ideal for networking and general business use.

Price: Entry level starts at £2,995
Availability: Now
Target users: PC users who require an upgrade to the latest technology
Contact: Osicom: 081-336 1282
Perceived competition: Chipset, Aries, Tandon and a whole host of others.

Lonely as a...

PRODUCT: Word processor
NAME: *Wordworth*
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga

The latest version of *Wordworth*, the word processor which has taken the Amiga world by storm, will be released on 21 October.

It has been subject to several major enhancements including the following:

- Font rotation, graphics support, PostScript driver for Adobe 35 font.
- Support for over 400 printers.
- Colour near letter quality printing.
- Auto page numbering/page count.

Price: £129.95 (upgrade £25)
Availability: Now
Target users: Any Amiga user
Contact: Digita International: 0395 270273
Perceived competition: *PenPal, WordStar*

Dashing digital deal

PRODUCT: ISDN adaptor
NAME: Pocket V24
COMPATIBILITY: PC

BT's Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is now starting to take a hold all over the country. In a few years time it will be the standard used in every home and office in the land.

So now is a good time to ensure that you and your computer are linked into the ISDN system.

Dataflex's adaptor is slightly smaller than a personal cassette player and connects to any RS232c-compatible machine via that very port. Essentially it enables a computer, using virtually any comms software to link into the super-fast ISDN and provide data transfer rates of 2400, 4800, 9600, and 19,200 bits per second when linked with V110 devices.

It makes use of industry standard, Hayes AT commands in order to make it behave in a similar way to a quick modem.

The pocket-sized unit is powered by a PP3 battery, an optional power supply or by using pin 9 of the D-type connector.

Once fitted to your machine, the unit can provide fast data access, and when connected to a synchronous controller card, data transfer rates rise to an amazing 64K per second. The combination of BT's digital delight and your computer could well be one of the best moves you will make in the next year.

Price: £595
Availability: Now
Target users: All businesses using PCs
Contact: Dataflex: 081–543 6417
Perceived competition: None, as yet no other company has come up with a BABT approved system for ISDN.

• No, it's not a mouse at all. It's a handy little device which will enable you to get the most from BT's new digital system

A real plus for dBase users

PRODUCT: dBase to C translator
NAME: *CodeTranslator*
COMPATIBILITY: PC

Now here's a slab of software for the real programming buffs amongst you. It combines two of the world's most popular programming tools in order to produce a powerful addition to your arsenal of computing armaments.

Basically, you can take applications created using the hugely successful dBase III language and turn them into stand-alone C applications which can be run directly from the command line with a minimum of fuss and bother.

What this means in terms of productivity is that the applications will run more quickly and with less memory useage.

Equally important is the fact that any programs created using this system can be distributed by you without incurring any royalty charges.

The *CodeTranslator* bundle does come with a hidden agenda however; you will also require *CodeBase* which costs an extra £190. However, if you buy the two programs before 31 December, The Software Construction Company will throw in a copy of Borland's popular Turbo C++ programming language for free. This in itself is a worthy deal and one which should not be overlooked.

Price: £129 (it requires *CodeBase* 4.2 to run. This costs an additional £190)
Availability: Now
Target users: Corporate market, especially companies with number intensive activities.
Contact: The Software Construction Company: 0763 244025
Perceived competition: No one else has produced such a translator.

Map of the day

PRODUCT: Map making software
NAME: *MapViewer*
COMPATIBILITY: PC

Charts and maps have long been areas in which the British excel. Now, even if you are unable to draw, and have not got the faintest idea where Sterling is in relation to Bude, you could be producing high quality charts in a fraction of the time it would normally take you using conventional methods. *MapViewer* is a system which originated in the United States. It runs on PCs and is Windows compatible.

Creating maps is achievable in a number of ways. You can take basic elements from a library of map types, draw your own using a range of CAD (Computer Aided Design) packages such as the industry standard *AutoCAD*, you can also layer different map types.

• Cartography is an ancient art practiced by skilled artisans. But now you can get involved using a PC

Data for map information can imported from software such as MicroSoft *Excel*, Lotus *1-2-3*, and dBase.

You don't just get dull, one dimensional maps either. There are options for 3D versions, rotated maps, and multi-layered charts all of which are produced on screen in full colour.

All of this comes in a Windows compatible, What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get (WYSIWYG) bundle for ease of use.

Price: £200
Availability: Now
Target users: Anyone with an interest in map making. Any business with a view to expansion.
Contact: GeoMem Software: 0250 3290
Perceived competition: There is no competition to this standard.

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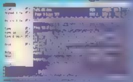
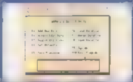
COVER DISK 6

Variety's the name of the game on this week's *Express* Cover Disk; from playing around with text and data to beating an evil megalomaniac!

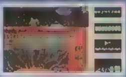
DISK CONTENTS



AMIGA
Text Plus



ST
Personal Database Plus
Calendar



PC
Duke Nukem

A bit of variety never hurt anyone, and with the *Express* Cover Disk this week you get a lot of it. Amiga owners can load, edit and print text files to their hearts delight.

And for ST owners there are a couple of useful programs. *Personal Database Plus*, is much more than just a database as its name implies. *Calendar* is a handy desktop accessory that, unsurprisingly, acts as a calendar.

While Amiga and ST owners are playing around with dates and data, PC owners can play one of the best (if not *the* best) shareware games ever released for their machine!

TRI-FORMAT TECHNOLOGY

All this software – for the three most popular 16-bit computers – is on a single 3.5-inch disk!

This is possible because of a special disk format developed for *Express* by Rob Northen Computing. The amount of disk space used for each machine changes from week to week, giving us the flexibility to allocate a large or small amount of space depending on whatever software deserves the most.

In effect, this means is that in one week a particular machine may have more space dedicated to it than in another. Don't worry though, the next week the situation changes completely.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

At *Express* we want to try and make the software on the disk the type of programs that our readers want. The only problem is, we don't know what that is! Do you want utilities? Applications? Games? A mixture?

Write in and tell us what you'd like to get, in general terms or more specifically. We'd like to know your thoughts. Send your views to Cover Disk Feedback, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

COVER DISK PROBLEMS

If you have a problem with the *Express* Cover Disk – that is, it's broken, your machine has never been able to load it or something else is seriously wrong with it – then send it along with an SAE to *New Computer Express* Cover Disk Returns, Disk 6, Disk Copy Labs, Unit A, Westmarch, London Road, Daventry, Northants NN11 4SA. A replacement disk will be headed your way soon after – just don't forget the SAE!

If, on the other hand, you have a problem with the *software* on the disk, then send a letter explaining what happened into us here at: Cover Disk Problems, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Apart from these problems, we're also interested in any hints or tips you may have to do with programs that have been featured on the disk.

Telephone enquiries regarding the *Express* Cover Disk should only be made on Fridays between 9.30am and 5pm. Because *New Computer Express* is a weekly magazine, there is simply no time to answer your calls outside those hours.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We're always on the lookout for software to go on the Cover Disk. If you reckon you've written a program which you think is worth putting on the Cover Disk read the details in the box at the bottom of this page.

Then fill in the form on the bottom of page 15 and send us a copy of the program along with as much information about it as possible. And if we use the program, we'll pay for it: up to a whopping £1,000!

EXPRESS DISCLAIMER

While we strive to ensure that the Cover Disk is free of all viruses and that the programs on it work properly, *New Computer Express* does in no way accept any liability for any problems that may arise from using the disk or the programs on it.

INTERESTED?

EARN UP TO £1,000

We need your programs for the *Express* Cover Disk, whether they are utilities, games, applications or demos for any or all of the three supported formats – Amiga, ST or PC.

If you think you've written a program which other *Express* readers would find useful, interesting or just plain fun, then send it in! We're on the look out for any software for the Amiga, ST and PC, and if we use it, we'll pay for it – up to a maximum of £1,000!

As you all know, *Express* is a weekly magazine which means it comes out at least four times more often than the monthlies. So now you've got that many more chances to contribute your creation, earn some money and see your name in print.

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW

1 Please document the software as much as possible. We'll be getting heaps of programs and to have to work out how to use them all will take up what little time we have to put together a great disk.

2 Check for big mistakes in the program such as (any) bugs, errors, or file corruptions. If you find any, fix them and send the program in some other time. Just think: if it works, then we might even use it.

3 Check for little mistakes in the program such as misspelled words. This may take a little extra time, but it will look that much more professional.

4 Test everything before you send it in. If it's a duff disk then we won't be able to do anything with it, will we?

5 In the case of PC software, try to use CGA as well as EGA and VGA graphics, and even MDA (monochrome) if possible. Also, if the program uses a mouse, try to make it so that it is an option and not an absolute necessity. Basically, try to accommodate as many PC users as possible.

NB: Unfortunately we won't be able to return any disks sent in to us. Not even if you include a SAE. The monthly magazines can do that, but because we put out a disk every week there is simply no time to arrange anything along those lines.

Once you've done all that and filled in the form on page 11, send all your contributions to: Cover Disk Contributions, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

AMIGA

AMIGA INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Text Plus
DESCRIPTION: Text editor
DIRECTORY: TextPlus
FILE (S): TextPlus2.0E, TxP.Config, TxP2.0E.doc

TEXT PLUS

Text files are an important aspect of computing on the Amiga – they can be used for menu screens, startup-sequences as well as anything else that requires a text file to run or make things more presentable. Normally, when something like this has to be done, unwieldy Workbench commands have to be used.

Until now, that is. *Text Plus* will enable all these things to be done and more. In fact, with its printing capabilities it could even be used as a basic word processor, used by those who don't need all the features of a more advanced (and more expensive) program.

LOADING TEXT PLUS

Before you do anything, write-protect the disk (by moving the notch in the top right of the disk so that you can see a hole through it) and then make a copy of it using the instructions in the Amiga Back-up Copy box elsewhere on this page. Always use your back-up copy whenever you load the program.

Once you have copied the disk, it's just a matter of inserting your back-up copy in your internal drive and waiting for the Workbench screen to come up. Then, once it has, double click on the Tri-Format Disk icon, and then click on the TextPlus drawer icon to see the program's files.

Double-click on the TextPlus2.0E icon to run the program.

Text Plus documentation is can be viewed by double clicking on the TxP2.0E.doc icon which will display it on-screen.

USING TEXT PLUS

The documentation that comes with the program fully explains what it is capable of.

Using the program is straightforward. As soon as it is run it can load text, or you can create your own. To load a file, go to the File menu. Not only can you load files from this menu, you can also Delete and Save files from here.

The Print function is also found in the File menu. When you decide you want to print a file, select Print and a window will pop up, giving you a choice of how you want to print the text, which largely depends on what your printer is capable of. These options include printing in Near Letter Quality (NLQ) as well as more standard standard fonts such as Pica and Elite. You can also print just certain pages, choose whether the pages should be numbered, and set the length of the paper you are going to print on.

EDITING

Once you have loaded or input your text file, editing the file is also easy with *Text Plus*.

Blocks of text – that is, parts of the document that you have highlighted with the cursor – can be marked, enabling you to copy the highlighted text to another part of the document, delete the block of text or print it out. If you so wish, blocks of text from other documents can be loaded into the document you are working on, which means you don't have to input the text all over again.

PREFERENCES

The Preferences menu enables you to change a number of fundamental characteristics of the program. From this menu you can:

- set the length of the page
- set the width of the text
- turn the insert function on and off
- turn letter mode on and off – *Text Plus* can save files as either ASCII text or as special letter files created by the program. Files created by *Text Plus* have the file suffix '.TXP'.
- go to the position of a particular string of text
- go to a particular line number

• When you decide to print a document, this is the straightforward options menu that comes up

STYLE

The Style menu enables you to arrange and print text in a variety of ways. You can set the type style of the text, from a choice of Normal, Underlined, Bold and Italicised.

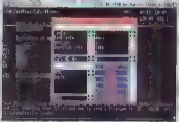
The way the text is formatted on-screen (and on paper) can also be set from this menu. Text can be aligned to the left or right of the page, or it can be centred or justified. There are also search and replace functions.

Effectively, *Text Plus* acts like a cut-down word processor. While it doesn't have features like a spelling checker or thesaurus, it's a perfectly capable of loading and printing all but the most lengthy and complicated of documents.

WHERE IT CAME FROM

Text Plus was supplied by Vally PD which specialises in Public Domain and shareware software for the Amiga. The company has a wide range of titles, covering all areas of Amiga software.

For further information, contact Vally PD at: PO Box [illegible], Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 1NZ. Phone 091 587 1195.



• Loading and saving files is easy with TextPlus – everything's displayed on-screen

AMIGA BACK-UP COPY

1 Start your Amiga with your Workbench disk.

2 Take a blank disk and initialise it (instructions in your user manual).

3 Now enter the CLI, by double clicking on the CLI icon that is in your System draw on a standard Workbench disk.

4 Then enter the following CLI commands to set up our working environment (remember to press <RETURN> after each. NB The '|' character is found at the top right of the Amiga's keyboard, next to the Backspace key. Press SHIFT \ to get the character):

```
MAKEDIR RAM:C
COPY C:COPY|DIR|DELETE RAM:C
COPY C:MAKEDIR|INSTALL RAM:C
PATH RAM:C ADD
PROTECT RAM:C RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/COPY RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DELETE RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/MAKEDIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/INSTALL RWE
```

5 Once you have entered the commands and the drive light has gone out, take out your Workbench disk and put your *New Computer Express* Cover Disk in the internal drive (DF0:). To start copying, enter the following CLI command:

```
COPY DF0:#? RAM:
```

6 During copying, the machine will display a list of the files being copied. Once copying has finished, remove your Cover Disk and insert your newly formatted disk into the internal drive and enter the following commands:

```
COPY RAM:#? DF0:
DELETE RAM:#?
```

7 That's the first part of the Cover Disk copied. The next step is a bit more tricky.

Firstly, remove your copy disk and insert the Cover Disk into the internal drive. Enter the following:

```
DIR DF0: OPT D
```

The Amiga should then display a list of all the directories on your Cover Disk which will looking something like the following:

```
c (dir)
devs (dir)
l (dir)
libs (dir)
s (dir)
```

Write down this list onto a piece of paper (the '(dir)' extension is not needed).

8 With your Cover Disk in the internal drive, each directory that was listed has to be copied individually from the Cover Disk onto your copy disk.

So, as an example, to copy the c directory you would enter:

```
COPY DF0:c ALL RAM:
```

9 Now, remove the Cover Disk and insert your copy disk and type:

```
MAKEDIR DF0:c
COPY RAM: ALL DF0:c
DELETE RAM:#? ALL
```

Now repeat stage 8 for all the directories on the Cover Disk master. (So, in the CLI commands above, replace each instance of 'c' with the name of the directory to be copied). Once all the directories have been copied you will have a successful copy of the Cover Disk.

10 The final step in backing up the Cover Disk is to install it to make it bootable:

```
INSTALL DF0:
```

COVER DISK 6

PERSONAL DATABASE PLUS

While its name implies otherwise *Personal Database Plus* is more than just a database it's also a text editor and label maker The version included on the *Express* Cover Disk is a cut-down version of the full commercial program Unlike other demos, though, this one will let you access all its functions and save data - its only limitation is that it can't hold more than 10 entries

Personal Database is a popular database for the ST that was released as shareware *Personal Database Plus* however, is the upgraded version of the program and it is not shareware A copy of the full program costs £19.95, or £12.95 if you are a registered user

LOADING PERSONAL DATABASE PLUS

Before you go any further, make a copy of the Cover Disk using the instructions printed in the ST Back-up Copy box below

Personal Database Plus will only run in medium resolution mode, so if you are not already in that mode, go to the Options menu select Set Preferences and change the resolution

To load the program insert your back-up copy into your drive click on the drive A or B icon, depending on which drive the disk is in and then click on the ST icon to open its folder

Click on PERS_DB+.PRG to load the program

USING PERSONAL DATABASE PLUS

When the program first loads, its main menu screen will appear All the programs main commands are accessible from this screen Here is a breakdown of its functions:

F1 – Add new data.

This is where a database can be started or added to To duplicate a field from a previous record then press F1 Once each record is complete you can ADD ANOTHER entry, SAVE & QUIT to return to the main menu but keep the record in memory, and QUIT (NO SAVE) to abort the entry and return to the main menu

F2 – Scroll/Edit Data.

This enables you to edit and update the files in your database You can use the arrow keys or the mouse to move around the database. The Edit option lets you alter or edit any of the data fields To edit, use the following keys

Cursor Up – Move to previous field
Cursor Down – Move to next field
Cursor Left/Right – Move left/right in field
Return/Enter – Move to next field
Clr Home – Move to start of field
Insert – Insert Space
Delete – Delete character under cursor
Backspace – Delete character to the left of the cursor
ESC – Clear field
F1 – Duplicate field from previous entry
F10 – Exit edit mode, save etc

F3 – Search utilities

This enables you to sort and output records in a number of ways There are two main search option, SPEED FIND which is fast but will search only one field, and FILTER which will examine all the fields.

You can output the results to the screen, PRTR (LIST) will list all selected files to your printer, and PRTR (LBLS) will enable you to select the format and positioning of labels MAILMERGE will present you with a GEM indicator to select the required document you wish to use, and then presents you with another selection screen to enable you to decide what greeting and position for the date you require. DISK is for saving a data file of just the selected entries to disk.

F4 – Set Defaults

This is where you set up your system according to printer type, label size and the address you wish to appear on mail merged documents. When you have made the selections you have the choice of whether saving your defaults so they are always there as set when you load the program, or using the current defaults without saving them Abort will ignore the changes you have made.

F5 – Text processor

Before printing mail merged documents you need to save the documents to disk You can use any ASCII file that has the extension .DOC as long as it is no longer than one page

The text processor is a basic and easy to use processor with all the commands visible at the touch of the HELP key There is no automatic insert, but there is automatic word wrap and the size of tabs can be set Other commands are

Control + C – Centre text
Control + Y – Delete line
Control + U – Restore deleted line
Control + I – Insert a blank line
Clr Home – Move cursor to column 1
Shift Home – Move cursor to line 1
Cursor keys – Control cursor
ESC – Exit edit mode.

To use the document in mail merge mode you must save it to a disk first.

F6 – Load data file

When *Personal Database Plus* first loads there is no data file [illegible] This option will enable you to load a database from *Personal Database Plus* (.PDP), *Personal Database* (.PDB) or *Labelmaker* (.LAB). These are all programs available from Bay Computers Some demonstration files are included on the disk.

F7 – Merge data file

Loading options are the same as above, but this will merge your selected file with the one already in memory.

F8 – Save data file

When you have built a database you will need to save it This option will present you with the GEM selector to name the file. Use whatever name for the file that you wish, but make the extension at the end of the file .PDP

F9 – System

This will tell you what system you have, what version of GEM, what TOS, if your printer is on-line, etc. This is more of a novelty than anything else.

F10 – Exit program

When you've finished using *Personal Database Plus* this is the way to exit the program It's a good idea to use this way of exiting the program instead of resetting for example as you are reminded if you have adjusted your data file and need to save the new version.

ST INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Personal Database Plus
DESCRIPTION: Application
FOLDER: ST
FILE(S): PERS_DB+.PRG, SAMPLE.DOC, TEST_100.PDP, MANUAL.TXT, SYSTEM (folder)

PROGRAM: Calendar
DESCRIPTION: Desktop accessory
FOLDER: ST/CAL47
FILE(S): CAL47.ACC, CAL47.DOC, CALSHOW47.PRG, CALSHOW.DOC, CALSHOW.PTX, CSZAP47A.TTP, CSZAP47A.TXT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Personal Database Plus is produced by Bay Computers who can be reached at: 3 Teasel Walk, Morecambe Lancs LA3 3QQ. Phone: 0524 831162. The full version of *Personal Database Plus* is available for £19.95.

CALENDAR

Calendar lets you attach 'events' to any day of the year according to the date or what position a day holds within a particular month

When *Calendar* loads, it reads the current date from the system clock and checks to see if any significant events are happening during the day.

If there is anything happening then *Calendar* will tell you, audibly if it loads as an ACC (that is, a desktop accessory)

Also on the Cover Disk is *Calshow*, a companion program to *Calendar* This is an AUTO program that reads events from *Calendar* and displays the next 22 events on-screen

Calshow can also be run as a TTP. When it is it has many functions, including printing out a list of upcoming events, saving the list to a disk file, specifying a cut off period (in days) for displaying events, specifying a maximum number of events to list, specifying the starting or ending date for the display telling *Calshow* where to look for *Calendar*, and showing only significant events or all of them.

Another companion program is CSZAP47A.TTP This can put a new cutoff value into *Calendar*. The normal value is ten days, so normally *Calshow* will display only the events happening in the next ten days This can be changed by CSZAP47A.TTP

There is documentation on the Cover Disk for all three programs, explaining how to use and install them.

ST BACK-UP COPY

1 Format at least one blank disk.

2 Write protect the original *Express* Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk) and insert it into the drive. If you've got two drives, insert the Cover Disk into drive B. Double click on the drive B icon to open a window showing the contents of the Cover Disk. If you've only got a single drive a message appears asking you to put disk B in drive A. Just click on OK.

3 Insert one of the blank formatted disks into drive A (removing the Cover Disk if you only have one drive). Double click on the drive A icon and open up another window. You may be asked to insert disk A in drive A - you already have, so do nothing and click on OK.

4 Highlight the ST folder in the drive B Cover Disk window and drag it into the drive A window.

5 If you only have one drive, you're asked to insert disk A and disk B at regular intervals. Be careful not to mix the two disks up! Remember. Disk B is the original Cover Disk and disk A is the newly formatted blank disk.

6 Don't try to use the standard Atari disk copy (dragging floppy A onto floppy B) function as it won't work.

DUKE NUKEM

The bounds of shareware gaming have been pushed even closer to commercial software with the release of *Duke Nukem*. The program's features confirm this: high speed animation, parallax scrolling, hundreds of screens, secret rooms and treasures, built-in hint mode and instructions, joystick and keyboard support.

Duke Nukem is another game produced by Apogee Software in the US which also brought out *Captain Comic* and *Commander Keen* which were featured on two previous Cover Disks. All of these games are published and distributed in the UK and Europe by Precision Software Applications (see address below).

TO START THE GAME

Before you do anything with the Cover Disk, write protect it (by moving the notch at the top right of the disk so that you can see a hole through the disk). Next, it is important that you make a back-up copy of it – use the instructions in the PC Back-up Copy box below on this page.

DE-ARCHIVING

To make things a bit easier for PC owners, we've made the de-archiving of the software an automatic process. Included on the disk are two files, INSTALL.BAT and NCE_PC.EXE. Don't run NCE_PC.EXE – it will try to de-archive itself back on to the Cover Disk which will be corrupted if it's not write protected.

Due to its size, *Duke Nukem* can only be installed on a hard drive. It simply is too big to fit on a floppy disk.

INSTALL.BAT is, as its name suggests, the installation program. To run it, just type INSTALL. It will come up with brief instructions explaining how to de-archive the programs to your hard disk. To install the program, simply type INSTALL C: or INSTALL D: depending on how your hard drive is assigned.

What the program does is to de-archive the files to the other drive. In doing so, it will create its own directory and even provide a menu for you to run the software from!

PLAYING THE GAME

You play the role of super hero Duke who's been called in on a special mission to save the world! Dr Proton, a brilliant nuclear scientist, plans to take over the planet and has created a large army of Techbots to help him. Your mission is to stop Proton and his army.

This is the first program in the *Duke Nukem* trilogy and is entitled *Duke Nukem: Shrapnel City*. In this game Duke enters a demolished city and has to find Proton's underground fortress.

In the second episode', entitled 'Mission: Moonbase', Duke follows Proton as he rockets to his secret base on the moon to plan his final attack.

And in the third and last part of the trilogy, called 'Trapped in the Future', Duke chases Proton into the future on Earth where their ultimate conflict takes place.

KEEPING IN CONTROL

Duke's an athletic chappie and can flip, cling to ceilings as well as use his nuclear pistol to blast away Dr Proton's nuclear reactors. For further details on Duke's abilities, look at the program's built-in instructions.

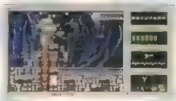
Duke Nukem can be controlled by either keyboard or joystick. The keyboard controls can be re-defined to suit the player but as they stand they are:

Left arrow – move left
Right arrow – move right
ALT – fire gun
CTRL – jump

The up arrow key is the action key enabling Duke to:

- activate elevators, teleporters and time machines
- read notes or monitors
- open doors
- insert access cards, keys and other useful objects

The further you get in the game, the more often you will use the action key.



• **Our brave hero Duke battles against the evil forces of Dr Proton and his tin men**

PC INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Duke Nukem
DIRECTORY: PC
DESCRIPTION: Game
FILE(S): INSTALL.BAT, NCE_PC.6

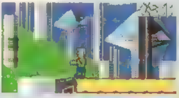
Duke Nukem can only be installed on a hard drive

NOTE: MS-DOS must be loaded on your system before you use the Cover Disk

HOOKED?

If you reckon *Duke Nukem: Shrapnel City* is a great game, you can obtain the other two games in the trilogy by contacting Precision Software Applications at Tamwood, 10 High Street, Tadlow, Nr. Roysten, Herts SG8 0ES. Phone 0767 23302.

The first *Duke Nukem* program, as featured on the *Express* Cover Disk, is shareware. The other two parts of the trilogy are available for £23.44 each (plus £2 postage and packaging), or all three games can be bought for £34.08 (plus £2 postage and packaging). As well as the games, you'll get a special 'Hints and Tricks' booklet, a secret mode password and several other bonus games.



• **Keeping watch over the city, Duke takes a break from the furious firey battles**

PC BACK-UP COPY

1 If you've only got a floppy drive-based system, format at least one blank disk. Otherwise use your hard drive.

2 Write protect the original *Express* Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk).

3 Use the XCOPY command to make the backup. If you have only one floppy drive, load XCOPY from the system disk from drive A:\ with the /S option to copy the files across. So, to copy the files across type: XCOPY A:\PC\*.* B: /S. Then it is just a matter of swapping disks in and out of the drive until the Cover Disk is copied. Don't worry if you think you must have two drives – the XCOPY command will treat your single drive as both, or it will copy to the B:\ drive if, in fact, you do have two drives.

4 If you have a hard drive, put the Cover Disk in drive A:\, then type: XCOPY A:\PC\*.* C: /S to copy all the subdirectories to the hard drive.

FANCY CONTRIBUTING? THEN FILL IN THIS

NAME: ....

ADDRESS: ....

....

TELEPHONE: .... (day) .... (night)

COMPUTER: Amiga Atari ST PC The name of the program is:

SIZE OF FILE(S): K

TYPE OF SOFTWARE:

Business application
Game
Music program
Novelty
Technical utility
Art program
Educational
Other

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: ....

....

CHECKLIST:

README.DOC file included on disk
Printout of README.DOC (if possible)
Disk is labelled with your name, address, phone number
Disk is certified virus free

DECLARATION: This program is submitted for publication by *New Computer Express*. I have totally written it myself, and I agree to indemnify Future Publishing against any legal action that may arise due to copyright problems.

SIGNED: ....

DATE: ....

PUBLIC DOMAIN

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First issue on sale October 3rd at £2.95

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OVER 300 PROGRAMS REVIEWED ... TURN TO PAGE 40
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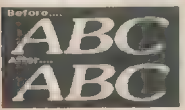
IF YOU WANT OUR ADVICE, BUY IT!

ON A SCREEN NEAR YOU...

[illegible]

PRODUCT: Font Enhancer
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: H B Marketing
CONTACT: 0753 686000


Before....
After....

• Smooth out the jagged edges on fonts with Innovision's new Font Enhancer

As any *DPaint* user will tell you, reducing the size of a bitmapped font can often result in a serious loss in quality. This is OK for bitmapped images, but if you intend to use the fonts for video work, the results can often be far from satisfactory.

A new product just out is Font Enhancer from Innovision in the US. Designed specifically for use with its video titling package *Broadcast Titler 2*, the Font Enhancer attempts to improve the quality and resolution of standard Amiga bitmapped fonts. It can also reduce these fonts to any point size lower than the source font, anti-aliasing the font to reduce the loss in quality. They are then saved out in *Broadcast Titler* format.

Font Enhancer can also be used to create a family of font sizes all derived from a single Amiga font, thus making it ideal for reducing over-sized Amiga fonts into a complete range of useful sizes. Although the resulting fonts cannot be used directly with programs such as *DPaint*, a conversion tool included with *Broadcast Titler* will convert them back to Amiga bitmapped font format. Unfortunately, this strips them of their anti-aliasing, making them almost useless. The quality of the enhanced fonts is very good, making the program attractive to owners of *BroadcastTitler 2*. However, its appeal is limited and would have been better if support for Amiga colourfonts had been built in. As it is, *Broadcast Titler 2* owners are about the only people that will find it of any use. Definitely a missed opportunity. ■

WILL IT WORK FOR YOU?

FOR
▲ Smooths edges when reducing fonts
▲ Cheap way of adding fonts to *Broadcast Titler 2*

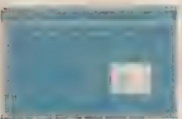
AGAINST
▼ Slows down when with larger fonts
▼ Enhanced fonts can only be used with *Broadcast Titler 2*
▼ Cannot enlarge fonts

COST: £130 **VALUE:** Fair

COMPETITION: None known

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

PRODUCT: Interspread
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: CentreSoft
CONTACT: 021 625 3302



• Keep all those numbers under control with CentreSoft's new InterSpread spreadsheet for the Amiga

It's all very nice being able to play all those wondrous Amiga games but even the most playful Amiga owner must occasionally get serious. Whether you're managing your bank account or running a small business, your Amiga can help you keep those facts and figures under control.

One of the most useful business tools is the spreadsheet, a program that can take the drudgery out of working with large amounts of numbers. Several spreadsheet packages are available for the Amiga, the most recent being *InterSpread* from InterActivision. Having already produced a damned fine word processor (reviewed in *Express* 150), InterActivision's *InterSpread* could well be a winner.

Like all spreadsheets, *InterSpread* uses the now familiar grid format that was pioneered by *SuperCalc* on the PC. Each 'cell' within the grid can contain either a number, a string or a formula. With 30 million cells available, it's unlikely that you'll feel held back by this program. What's more, its user interface is an absolute joy to use, so all that power is easily controlled.

InterWord supports five mathematical operators including expotential involution (to the power of), multiplication, division, subtraction and addition. You can mix and match these to produce some quite complex formulae. The program also supports a [illegible] macro facility, making complex operations considerably easier.

InterSpread may not be the most exciting program in the world, but it's certainly an exciting spreadsheet (if such a thing is possible!). Combining ease of use and power with a price tag anyone can stretch to, *InterSpread* is well worth investigating. ■

WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

FOR
▲ Very easy to use
▲ Cheap for what it has to offer
▲ Manual is excellent

AGAINST
▼ Graphing functions are a little limited

COST: £50 **VALUE:** Excellent
COMPETITION: *Advantage, K-Spread*

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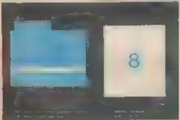
PRODUCT: LabelPro
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Avery Office Products
CONTACT: 0628 39911



• LabelPro – ideal for small businesses to use as a simple mailmerge program

Unlabelled disks, tatty address labels and the nightmare of mailmerging – if you have a laser printer, these could be problems of the past with Avery's new label printing software.

LabelPro is simple to install and easy to use. It can print a wide variety of labels and a library of clip art enables you to add a distinctive, personal touch.

The program is entirely menu driven, which makes designing a label a simple process. The type of label is selected first – there are 16 to choose from – and then the text and graphics are entered. A range of text sizes and fonts is catered for, and an excellent preview option displays your masterpiece before you commit yourself to printing.

Producing mailmerged labels is as easy as producing disk or video cassette labels. Instead of entering text, you tell *LabelPro* which database file to use, and then select the appropriate fields. *LabelPro* has its own simple database, but addresses can also be merged from *dBase*, *Microsoft Word*, *WordPerfect* and *Wordstar*.

The clip art library is limited, but any graphics in PCX or PCC (such as graphics from *DPaint* or *PC Paintbrush*) format can be added to it. The initial printer set up procedure is cumbersome, but it does help you get the most from both printer and software.

LabelPro is ideal for small businesses that need a simple mailmerge program, and it may even save on stationery costs. But it is probably too specialised for home users.

BONUS TO BUSINESSES

FOR
▲ Simple and efficient
▲ All labels used by the program can be purchased from Avery

AGAINST
▼ Label sizes cannot be altered
▼ Only supports laser printers

COST: £110.45 **VALUE:** Fair
COMPETITION: None known

PRODUCT: Unmouse
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Picture Perfect (UK) Ltd
CONTACT: 0264 333643

• For computer users on the move the Unmouse doesn't need a flat surface to work on

As its name suggests, the Unmouse is a mouse that isn't a mouse. It is a touch-sensitive tablet that provides mouse-like cursor control, without the need for loads of space on the desktop.

The tablet connects to a serial port on the PC, just as a mouse would, but it may need more electrical current than that supplied from the serial port. Cables are supplied which enable the Unmouse to commandeer some power from the keyboard

The Unmouse drivers are easy to install, and the manual provides full instructions on how to alter the set up of Windows for use with the Unmouse.

Moving the cursor is simple – just move your finger or a stylus across the face of the tablet. It is a little difficult to get the hang of at first, but it soon becomes much easier than using a mouse for simple pointing

The Unmouse has several modes of operation designed for different uses. The two basic mouse modes will probably be the ones that are used the most, but the absolute modes are excellent for precise drawing and pointing. In absolute mode a position on the tablet represents the same position on the screen. For example, if you point at the left-hand corner of the tablet, the cursor will jump to the left-hand corner of the screen. It takes a while to get used to, and it requires perseverance before you can get the best results from your graphics package. The trackball mode is similar to the mouse mode, except that the cursor will continue to move after you move your finger off of the tablet.

Laptop users, who use their computer on the move, will find the Unmouse particularly useful, because they will no longer have to struggle to find a flat surface for their mouse. The Unmouse is well worth a look if you haven't already bought a mouse. But if you do have a mouse, the Unmouse may not be a sufficient improvement to justify the cost. ■

MORE THAN A MOUSE?

FOR

- ▲ **Easy to install**
  More sensitive than a mouse
  Excellent for users on the move

AGAINST

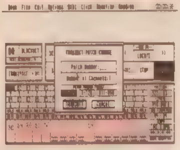
- ▼ **May not be worth the investment if you already have a mouse**

COST: £159.80 VALUE: Good

COMPETITION: Any mouse or trackball

* * *

PRODUCT: Trackman 2
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Hollis Research
CONTACT: 0481 28286



• Making music doesn't need to be a computer-generated headache. Trackman 2 does it the way musicians do it – simply!

For too long the price of MIDI sequencers has been astronomical, largely to recoup development costs from frustrated musicians who need them. But *Trackman 2* is a MIDI sequencer created by a musician for musicians – with the emphasis on features, rather than price. For your money, you get a package which can turn a humble piano-basher into a virtual virtuoso.

Trackman 2's approach differs from most other MIDI packages in that it's laid out as a studio mixing desk. Instead of complex pattern lists, you have a simple 16 track desk, complete with volume sliders and solo/mute buttons. Each track can play or record on any MIDI channel, and can be tweaked, re-timed and re-recorded without affecting anything else.

For songwriting, *Trackman 2* is superb. Its intuitive menu-operated features give you full control over a wide range of effects and editing functions. Tracks can be examined, instrument by instrument, and then altered using the mouse, or the MIDI keyboard itself. Even critical timing errors can be cured using a single keypress to line all the dodgy notes to the nearest beat, half-beat, or any other position.

You can record your tunes in different ways – Step-time writing (placing each note in position on a grid) stops those infuriating moments when your sense of rhythm goes, while real-time writing (where you play the tune live) can be set up to align the notes as you play.

Once your first instrument track is safely down, you can overlay more instruments, using each one as a cue for the newer ones, just like a real studio mixing desk. When you've got all your sounds, you can edit notes and bounce tracks around with fine precision.

Songwriting with *Trackman 2* is about as easy as it will ever get. And you don't need to hock your drummer's kit to pay for it. ■

IS IT SOUND?

FOR

- ▲ **As easy as falling off a stage**
- ▲ **Results can be obtained quickly**
- ▲ **Powerful features at a low cost**

AGAINST

- ▼ **Doesn't show music on a proper stave**
- ▼ **Can't highlight the note playing**

COST: £179 VALUE: Excellent

COMPETITION: ***C-Lab Notator, C-Lab Creator, CuBase, Steinberg Pro-24, Sequencer One***

* * *

PRODUCT: Protext v5.5
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Arnor
CONTACT: 0733 68909

• Protext gets another facelift and comes back more stylish and more powerful than before

Most people take Word Processing for granted – all you need is a package which you can type into and then use to generate a hard-copy on paper. Simple. But Arnor knows that it needn't stop there. Without going the whole hog and moving into DTP, there are still corners which can be 'smoothed off' to make word-processing an easier, quicker operation.

Protext 5.5 is the next step in the direction of the 'paperless office'. It combines simple GEM-style menus and their inherent ease of use, with older methods like keyboard short-codes, as found in prehistoric PC word-processors like *WordStar* and *MSWord*.

A bewildering array of features awaits you in *Protext 5.5*: a word counter, a spelling dictionary (which can even check as you type), a calculation evaluator (for writing sums which can be proved to work), a index and contents generator, an auto-saver (a real life-saver), and even an anagram generator.

But all these features first appeared on Version 5 of *Protext*, early last year – what's new for 5.5? A thesaurus, revised dictionaries and hyphenation commands, that's what. These new features form part of a much-improved system, one that's been tailored to fit its users. It's now possible to avoid those moments when you can't think of another way of expressing yourself – a simple key command gets the thesaurus working, looking for synonyms.

But that is by no means it. *Protext 5.5* also features an improved count function, which can now alphabetically list the words you used in your document and indicate how many times they appeared. Business people will find the mail-merge improvements useful – *Protext 5.5* can read Prodata database files directly, making direct-marketing mailshots a doddle.

Whatever your requirements, *Protext 5.5* can handle them. It's powerful, well laid out, and easy to use. After just a short time using *Protext 5.5*, you'll wonder how you ever did without it for so long. ■

IS IT WORTH BUYING?

FOR

- ▲ **Clear concise menu operations**
- ▲ **Loads of high-powered features**
- ▲ **Quick and efficient to use**

AGAINST

- ▼ **Occupies four double-sided disks**
- ▼ **Complex installation for hard drives**

COST: £152 (£30 upgrade)
VALUE: Good

COMPETITION: ***1st Word Plus, Write On, That's Write, Script***

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648 Predators Megademo (2)
744 Red Sector Cebit Demo
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773 Shark Animation *
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908 Madonna Cartoon Animation *
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496 Holy Grail Adventure *
498 Wanderer
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680 Learn & Play (2)
727 Star Trek (Richter) (2)
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962 Drip!
987 Snakepit
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MUSIC

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057 PSB : Suburbia
061 Definitive J M Jarre
087 Power Surge
109 Amiga Chart 3
166 Vangelis *
187 Crusaders : Audio X
204 Sound Atlas 2
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407 CD Player Demo *
409 Crusaders : Freak'n Out!
419 Electric Youth (2)
497 Amiga Chart 5
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081 UEdit Word Processor
119 Amiga MCAD
180 PageSetter Clip Art
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353 Showiz 2.0 (SS maker)
410 DPaint Cartoon Brushes
442 DPaint Fonts Disks (4)
458 HAM Radio Utilities (5)
548 Iconmania!
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580 Dope Intro Maker
591 Business Card Maker
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661 Programming Disk
662 Sound Applications (2)
664 Video Applications (2)
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901 The Comms Disk
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EXPRESS MAIL

Express' Editor, Andy Storer, continues the debate on cover disks and asks whether PCs are really taking over the world in the liveliest letters pages in the weird and wonderful world of computing...

Cover swaps

Congratulations on your new "tri-format" Cover Disk.

Despite being on a tight budget, I am more than happy to pay a little extra for your magazine, for such ease of use disks, unlike other magazines that seem to expect one to be super human to extract information, to make a working copy.

However at the risk of wanting "Jam on it", so to speak: I am using an STE, 1 Meg and would have liked to have had *bBase II/China Challenge* issue 148 for the STE user.

I am more interested in such things as *bBase* and more serious things like chess, etc. and fancied the look of the *China Challenge*, (don't get me wrong) I also like playing games.

As someone 'new to computing', is there any way I could purchase some equipment to be able to convert information for this Amiga Cover Disk to work on an STE? (I know someone with an Amiga.)

Should the answer be no, then perhaps in the future you could "repeat" various items for the other users [illegible] have access to. Hoping you can help,

S J Long, Swindon, Wilts

[illegible] AFRAID YOUR request is a difficult one SJ and one which, if it could be resolved, would make its solver a great deal of money.

Put simply, programs designed to run on one machine just won't run on another unless there's a specific version that's been written [illegible] conform to that machine's operating system. And unfortunately the software you mention is machine specific.

There is a half-way house solution open to you however. You could run the PC programs if you bought a PC emulator for your STE - something like the Vortex or AtOnce plug in boards that effectively turn it into a PC.

Alternatively, but rather more drastically, you may wish [illegible] sell your [illegible] and buy an Amiga - this way you could then buy both ST and [illegible] emulators and run just about all the software on the disk!

Cover lover

It's times like this I'm glad I saw you in the shops. *NCE* has been a life-saver to me.

Nearly every computer mag comes out once a month which is no good as you get fed up sitting around like a wet weekend. Some mags are not fit to go in the shops, for example: I bought a *ST Fun* a few weeks ago costing me a fiver! I turned on the computer and found the worst game ever!

Another thing I can't stand are demos. Once you've played one level that's it. I wish to thank *NCE*'s cover for bringing it to my sight!

Siân Edwards
Holywell, N Wales

ADOPTING HARRY ENFIELD voice: 'I just couldn't believe it...this disk loads up and all it has is a game demo...what's that all about then?...I just couldn't believe it!'

Well, Harry, unfortunately, an agreement between all computer magazines and the European Software Leisure Publishers Association means that none of [illegible] can run full-length games anymore. Sales suffer and all that. So [illegible] the meantime, demos are all you're gonna get. We'll just make sure you get the best ones!

PC power

Re: your Figures of Fun feature in *Express* 150 – surely the moral of your report is that after [illegible] years the PC has finally become what IBM originally intended – a home computer.

John R Hudson, Huddersfield

YEP THAT'S ABOUT the size [illegible] it John – just a pity that none of IBM's own PCs have yet managed to become home computers though, isn't it? Is this the ultimate price of piracy?

PC games

I read the debate on the "Sugar Baby" with great interest and agree with Simon Dullingham.

There are indeed other £1,000 PCs which offer exceptional value for money and good expansion if needed. In a recent interview of 386's the "Shopper" lab report gave "Best Buy" for performance to the Tiko PC 320, and no wonder!

Just a brief look at the specifications, including the excellent pro-designer video display, 20MHz and 43Mb hard disk, all for £1,099 plus VAT (£1,291 total, delivery free), would make anyone look twice. Come to that it was a surprise to see the Amstrad 386SX still rated as best buy because of the possible advantages of High Street prices against the set prices of direct supply.

This factor does need to be taken into account – good dealer services are (sometimes) worth having as are their occasional "offers".

The main drawback with PCs and games is lack of sound. I have a friend who has just made me weep with envy. He runs Microsoft's FS4 on his new 33MHz 386DX Vig [illegible] 256 colours and sVGA. [illegible] flying a sim plane with an engine that sounds like a damp squib surely can't compare with the roar from a racing throttle on the Amiga 500.

The need to purchase a separate sound board and mini amp with stereo speaker adds another £170 to the overall cost of PCs. But it looks like Sugar has put this into his new Games PC as a sweetener to make [illegible] think.

It has been a snag in the development of PCs right through. Even when the first CPC came out, you could make music on it and even produce something like a voice synthesis. And look what the Amiga can do, and at such a competitive price!

And so the battle goes on. We're the lucky ones: It's up to them to deliver the goods! Thank you for your interesting pages. "Letters" and "Tech Tips" are the lifeblood of the magazine. And now we get a 50p disk too! Ever so Taaaa!

John Gray, Eastbourne

I MUST CONFESS I've been playing rather a [illegible] of PC games recently – mind you I have one of those Ad-lib stereo cards so sound's not a problem.

It's increasingly dawned on me that the PC is the most useful machine around – all things told – if you have the dosh to transform it into something approaching a modern computer.

Diskussions 1

£5

Refering back to *Express* 151 and the request for suggestions for the Cover Disk contents, I personally would like to see more productivity software, also graphic/drawing/animation programs which could include some of the better quality PD/Shareware offerings as well as demos of commercial releases.

As I do not class myself as an expert with my computer (Amiga) full tutorials of the programs included would be of great help and would allow users to get the most out of the disk.

I am sure there are many people out there who, like me, love dabbling with the software as we try to learn but are not yet experienced enough to decipher the somewhat brief and technical doc. files that are included.

With a little tuition achieving results, however simple, can be a very satisfying and rewarding experience for us beginners.

G Collinge, Bury St Edmunds

YOU CAN BE SURE we're aware of the documentation shortfall you refer to. We try and enclose as big a reference guide as is possible within the space available, but we can't always deliver enough. But this is often because the softwares' authors don't go into much detail either!

Diskussions 2

£5

The programs I would like most to see on 16-bit disks are tutorials to go with features, utilities and productivity software.

We can easily get games demos from the glossy monthlies like *Amiga Format*.

Janice Charnley, Warrington

CHEERS JANICE – that's the kind [illegible] succinct positive response we're after. Here's a 'fiver'... anyone else out there fancy some dosh in return for constructive criticism then just send it to:

'Let's make it the best disk this side [illegible] Pluto', NCE, 30, Monmouth St, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

ON THE COUCH

This week's playful pro-active psycho modeller is KEVIN WRIGHT of ROMFORD, ESSEX. Romford, home of John Bull's bitter and er...Kevin Wright. Kevin just dropped a line to our resident shrink, Dr Clare Anthony, including the name of the machine he owned, his favourite software and the machine he most desired. He then sent the lot to: Leather Couch Clare, *NCE*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

Dr. Clare took off her silk gloves, opened the letter and...

OK Kevin – here we go my young sweetie, just rest your head on this pillow and let's get to it...

- MACHINE OWNED: Sega Megadrive
- FAVE SOFTWARE: *Sonic The Hedgehog*
- DESIRED MACHINE: Sega CD-ROM

My, my, my...you're one of the new generation of console cowboys aren't you? You say in your letter 'Help me Clare! Can you cure me?' – well it's a tall order Kevin. You see, advanced console obsessives are the most difficult subjects to deal with precisely because it's so hard to pull them away from the infernal things.

One day, your son will come along to you and say, 'Daddy, I know when you were young you used to play with your Megadrive all the time, so why can't I have my Sega Direct Neural Implant this Christmas. All my friends have their Nintendo Cerebral Response Devices and I'm sick of being left out'. Of course, he'll be crying while he's saying this and you won't have the heart to give him what he deserves – ie, a damn good kicking – so you'll fork out the £299 and never see him again for the rest of his life. Let's face it – is this how you want your kids to grow up?

We Freudians consider CD-ROM to be an important and essential logical device in the continuing development of the human psyche. So much so that our AI people are, at this very moment, developing *Sigmund Interactive*. It's simple to use and takes all major credit cards. It also makes *Eliza* look like Carl Jung.

PROGNOSIS: Go to your local pub and drink 15 pints of John Bull's bitter. Then stare mindlessly at the CD jukebox for six hours. On your way to hospital you will realise that this is a lot cheaper than buying a CD-ROM and provides great entertainment for other drinkers too.

PC v Amiga

I couldn't let your article about PCs pass without comment.

My own experience of using PCs over many years has been that the machines are reliable and easy to use. I have had three Victors (CAD systems) running five days a week for six years without a hardware hitch.

The backup from the builders has always been helpful with of course on site maintenance for the first year. They are beginning to look a bit old now and one of the monitors is on the blink.

However, for home use I bought a CBM 1500 with all the extras (hard disk, etc) in March. My, oh my, what a contrast. A great machine, but service backup is hopeless!

In July the CBM monitor blanked. I took it back to the shop where I'd bought it to be sent back to CBM. I asked about an immediate replacement only to be told that there was no policy for lending out monitors to disgruntled customers.

I explained that I was in the middle of developing a program for work using Amigavision and the shop manager lent me his monitor. Thanks to him I completed the work, but as yet there is no sign of my monitor.

My point is that if a customer buys 'the lot' from CBM and the monitor breaks down, the whole thing is useless and perhaps I have a right to demand all of my money back. What's your view?

Of course, I enjoy working with the Amiga, but CBM is going to have to get its act together if it wants to keep its current market position.

I get the distinct impression that CBM is only interested in the dosh now and doesn't give a

Write Now

Write and tell Andy [illegible] what you think! Reach him at: Express Mail, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Sorry, no personal replies, even with an SAE, and remember, only SOME letters will [illegible]

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monkey whether you go back again as there are plenty of new punters dying to part with their cash. Have I got news for CBM? Anybody got a bright new speedy PC for sale?

Graham Worth, Stockport

I'M AFRAID THE KIND of back-up service you're used [illegible] is only really found [illegible] the corporate sector where there are so many venders doling out DOS-in-a-box that after sales are part [illegible] a package's market competitiveness.

Having said that, it does seem somewhat ridiculous to have had to have waited since July for a monitor to be fixed. I'd go up the wall

I reckon you'd have a good chance of some kind of refund – you're covered under the statutory one year's warranty – why not try for one direct from CBM?

Consolation

I own an Amstrad 6128 and GX4000. Firstly the GX4000 is a very good little console; it beats the NES and Master system into deep space and I am very pleased with the games I have got for it (*Burning Rubber, PANG, Navy Seals, Klax* and *Switchblade*).

Express and *Amstrad Action* (even though the people on *Express* do nothing but talk about Amigas and Macs) will probably agree with me, but why then does everybody who has not seen my GX4000 think it's %&*+, but all the people who have seen it have said it's very good?

Lastly, why do people slag off each others computers? Examples include C64 v Speccy v CPC/Plus and ST v Amiga v PC.

These arguments are pointless and all of you on *Express* probably agree with me. But you on *Express* make things worse, why don't you call yourselves *New Mac Express* or *Amiga Express* because that's what you're slowly turning your magazine into.

If I brought one of these machines what would I do with it? The answer, no more than I would do on my Amstrad. Otherwise congratulations on a brill mag. More 8-bit stuff please.

Marcus Durham, Farnham, Surrey

IF YOU USE your CPC mainly for playing games then a Mac is of no use [illegible] you. However, the benefit of buying an Amiga should be apparent – the games are better and there's more of 'em. ■

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ATARI

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AMIGA

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- Deluxe Paint 3
- The Simpsons
- Captain Planet
- Lemmings

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ATARI STE PACKS

ALL ATARI STE PRICES INCLUDE VAT AND UK DELIVERY. ALL PRODUCTS CARRY A FULL 12 MONTH WARRANTY. PLEASE RING US BEFORE ORDERING TO CHECK STOCKS AND CURRENT PRICES.	512k	1mb	2mb	4mb
ATARI STE STANDARD PACK. consists of the computer with mouse, tv lead, manual and all connecting leads etc. The Standard Pack is supplied with NO software.	£289.00	£319.00	£349.00	£429.00
ATARI STE DISCOVERY A. consists of the Standard Pack and First Basic, ST Tour, NeoChrome and 4 games (Dragons Breath, Super Cycle, Indiana Jones, Anarchy)	£299.00	£329.00	£359.00	£439.00
ATARI STE DISCOVERY B. ★NEW★ consists of the Standard Pack and First Basic, ST Tour, NeoChrome and 4 games (Final Flight, Sim City, 9 Lives, Planet of Robot Monsters)	£299.00	£329.00	£359.00	£439.00
ATARI STE TURBO. consists of Standard Pack and STOS, Hyperpaint II, Music Maker II, First Basic and 8 games (Indiana Jones, Dragons Breath, Blood Money, Impossible Mission II, HKM, Anarchy, Outrun and Supercycle)	£309.00	£339.00	£369.00	£449.00
ATARI STE ARCADE. ★NEW★ consists of Standard Pack and New Zealand Story, Chase HQ, Arkanoid II, Crazy Cars, Operation Wolf, Super Hang On, Super Cars, Skidz, Switchblade and Axels Magic Hammer	£309.00	£339.00	£369.00	£449.00
ATARI STE TENSTAR. consists of Standard Pack and Asterix, Chess Player 2150, Drivin Force, Live + Let Die, Onslaught, Pipemania, Rick Dangerous, Rock n Roll, Skweek and Trivial Pursuit II	£309.00	£339.00	£369.00	£449.00
ATARI STE KUMA BUSINESS. consists of Standard Pack and word processor K-Word 2 (incl K-Spell Checker) K-Data database, K-Spreadsheet, K-Graph business graphics and Metacomco Basic Language	£319.00	£349.00	£379.00	£459.00
ATARI STE CURRICULUM. consists of Standard Pack and also 3 levels of educational software (from 5 yrs to 50 yrs !!) a word processor, a spreadsheet, a database, HyperPaint and Music Maker II software	✗ N/A	£369.00	£399.00	£479.00

AMIGA PACKS

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ALL OF OUR 1MB A500 PACKS NOW COME WITH THE GENUINE COMMODORE A501 RAM EXPANSION WITH BUILT IN CLOCK.

AMIGA A500 BASE A500 computer, mouse, tv modulator, manuals, Workbench software, all connecting leads etc. The A500 Base Packs are supplied 'bare' with no games software.	£299.00
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AMIGA A500 ASTRA A500 512k computer, mouse, tv modulator, manuals, Workbench, etc supplied with 10 great software titles (see A500 1MB ASTRA pack below for details)	£325.00
AMIGA A500 1MB ASTRA Amiga A500 computer, A501 512K Ram expansion with clock and battery back-up, mouse, tv modulator, manuals, Workbench etc disks, plus the ASTRA 10 games pack including the following games : Datastorm, Dungeon Quest, E Motion, Grand Monster Slam, Kid Gloves, Powerplay, RVF Honda, Shuffle Puck Cafe, Soccer and Tower of Babel	£350.00
AMIGA A500 1MB CARTOON CLASSICS Amiga A500 computer, A501 512K Ram expansion with clock and battery back-up, mouse, tv modulator, manuals, Workbench etc disks, plus the following top selling software titles Lemmings, The Simpsons, Captain Planet and Deluxe Paint 3	£359.00
AMIGA A1500 BASE A1500 computer with 1MB ram, detachable keyboard, 2 x 3.5" 880k disk drives built in, mouse and all manuals. The Amiga A1500 accepts A2000 peripherals. The A1500 base pack is supplied with no software. Please note that the A1500 does NOT have a modulator.	£599.00
AMIGA A1500 SOFTWARE consists of A1500 base pack and and the following software : Platinum Works, Deluxe Paint Version 3, Populous, Simm City, Battle Chess, Their Finest Hour (Battle of Britain) and 2 books	£655.00

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

MACINTOSH

- **Mass-media marketing with Mac in the USSR**
- **Fast fonts: the latest on-line delicacy**
- **CD-ROM prices coming down to earth at last**

APPLESKI

Following on from the news [illegible] the appointment of a Macintosh dealer in the Soviet Union (or what's left [illegible] it), Apple has started a mass-media marketing campaign [illegible] Soviet publications, according to on-line service NewsBytes.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by Intermicro, the aforementioned dealer, and has the somewhat confusing theme 'A solid US family has serious intentions to live and work in the USSR'. Publications like *Izvestia* are carrying the ads, and the campaign will also include TV and radio commercials.

ON-LINE FONTS

The Universal Fount Company has launched a fonts by modem service, in an effort to make fonts more easily available.

The service operates through a number of resellers (normally high street 'instant printers', DTP bureaux, computer dealers and the like), who have a phone number and password to the UFC's on-line type library.

All the user has to do is walk into the shop and specify the fonts that they want. A few minutes later they walk out [illegible] the door with a disk.

So far the service has access [illegible] the Bitstream, Monotype and Adobe font libraries, but negotiations are underway for four other major libraries [illegible] be included.

The service has had over 30 dealership applications so far, with more arriving [illegible] the time. For details [illegible] your nearest Universal Fount Company dealer, give the company a call on 0242 222308.

'CHEAP' MONITORS

Well, it all depends on what your understanding of low cost [illegible]. Heyden and Son has announced that the E-Machines ColorPage E16 monitor, a 16-inch affair that works with [illegible] colour-capable Macs (that is, all except the 'modular' machines such as the Classic, SE and so on). It requires no extra interface for the Mac IIsi or IIci [illegible] 256 colours at a resolution of 640 x 480 pixels.

The E16 will also work on the Mac LC, with the addition of an interface card, the snappily-named 1106 LC16. The interface card, which retails for £375 + VAT, will fit not only E-Machines' own 16-inch monitor, but also those from Sony, SuperMac and Apple. The ColorPage E16 sells for £1,195 + VAT, so the whole package for an LC is just £1,570 + VAT.

OK, so it's not exactly budget, but [illegible] actually pretty good value for money, providing 70 per cent more viewing area than a standard 13-inch monitor.

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

If you sneak a peek at the World Expo calendar (sorry, no swimsuits), it's always Macworld time somewhere. There are up to 15 Expos a year worldwide! The premier spreads, with the monster crowds, are in San Francisco, Tokyo, and Boston.

Even this year's Boston Expo wasn't grand enough in this recessionary year, and many companies decided to stay home. The cost of a booth at these shows keeps rising. The smallest can cost more than $25,000, when you add shipping, setup, personnel expenses – Ouch! So, there were holes where booths ought to have been.

There was hope that this Expo would overflow with trailblazing System 7-savvy software to make our mouths water and our pocketbooks open up. Unfortunately, most vendors are still shaking the bugs from their upcoming products. Users that have taken the Seventh step are buying RAM and updates for applications they already own.

What people wanted to see, and couldn't, were the new flavours of Macintosh due out in late October and QuickTime multimedia system software extensions. QuickTime provides a standard way for software to compress sound and pictures, and handle time-based events, so everything happens when it's supposed to, letting us cut, paste, and use digitised movies in our documents. Desktop video cards, special videocassettes, and jumbo hard drives were pawed over by multimedia true believers. Is a word processor a word processor, if it can include little motion pictures, with digital sound, as illustrations?

Best demo incorporating food was in the Hewlett-Packard booth. The new colour inkjet DeskWriter C was printing on corn tortillas. You can have your cake, and read it too!

David Morgenstern

FEED YOUR ST!

HCS Computer Peripheral Supplies

2 year guarantee on memory!
14 day money back guarantee!

MEMORY UPGRADES

VISA

HCS STE MEMORY UPGRADE KITS

STE kits come as either SIMM or SIP type modules. SIMM modules have edge connectors. SIP have pins. All types plug into 4 sockets under the top [illegible] the case. SIMM are the most common and are supplied by default; these will be swopped if necessary. Trade in [illegible] paid as a refund after you have upgraded your computer. [illegible] kits come C/W illustrated instructions. 2+4 Mb come C/W FREE multitasking software

STE KITS	NORMAL PRICE	WITH 512K TRADE IN	WITH 1024K TRADE IN
512K [illegible] 1024K	£22.00	-	-
2 MEGABYTE	£80.00	£70.00	£60.00
4 MEGABYTE	£150.00	£140.00	£130.00

STF(M) MEMORY UPGRADE KITS

There are two basic types of upgrade. The low cost solder-in type which comes complete with sockets, capacitors, resistors and instructions, or the much easier to install Xtraram Deluxe Kit which fits inside the computer [illegible] allow upgrading to 4Mb using simms like the STE uses.

Solder-in upgrade Kit to 1Mb £30.00
Xtraram [illegible] Quality SIMM UPGRADING SYSTEM
.... £45.00
Populated to [illegible] Mb £110.00
Populated to 2Mb £159.00
Populated to 4Mb £20.00
Fitting for above (exclusive of post).

CHIPS
[illegible] 1 Dram Chips £24.00
[illegible] 1Mb x 1 Dram Chips £70.00

PC EMULATORS

PC Emulators sit on top of the microprocessor of the ST. When in use, they take over control of the processor. This allows Speed and a high degree of compatibility. PC Speed runs 4 times faster than a PC. The AT Speed 8.3 times. The AT Speed co-processor socket allows the extra chip [illegible] accelerate numerical calculations 5000% (five thousand!)

AT SPEED SUPPLIED .... £220.00 FITTED £245.00
PC SPEED SUPPLIED .... £90.00 FITTED £120.00
AT SPEED STE ADAPTOR SUPPLIED £25.00

MACINTOSH EMULATORS

Spectre GCR allows the ST to emulate [illegible] MAC using the ST's own processor (as used [illegible] the Macintosh). [illegible] simply plugs into the cartridge slot and the disk drive port. [illegible] also has a through port [illegible] allow a second drive). It will run up to system [illegible]. The version supplied will be the most up to date, supplied by GADGETS

SPECTRE GCR SUPPLIED £250.00
128K ROMS SUPPLIED £70.00

DISK DRIVES

The double sided disk drive [illegible] replaces the internal single sided drive in the STFM. The PROTAR hard drives supplied are of the highest quality and are ST Format GOLD winners of 1991

DOUBLE SIDED DISK DRIVE UPGRADE £47.00
40MB PROTAR HARD DRIVE £335.00
[illegible] HARD DRIVE £485.00

HOW TO ORDER

Telephone orders and enquiries welcome on
Tel/Fax 081 777 0751. Please make cheques/P.O's payable to
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Goods normally despatched within 2 days of receipt. Trade-in paid as a refund [illegible] E&OE

[illegible] INCLUDE VAT

according to E-Machines. More details from Heyden and Son on 081-203 5171

UPGRADED ART

Canvas 3.0, an upgrade to Deneba Software's professional drawing package, has just started shipping. It has been completely re-designed to incorporate System 7 support, and has been 18 months in the making.

The upgrade features over 100 new features, including Pantone colours, WYSIWYG, colour calibration for CMYK and Pantone, System 7-savvy features and TrueType and PostScript Type 1 font conversion to Bézier outlines.

Anyone who purchased *Canvas 2.1* from 1 April this year onwards can upgrade free to the new version 3.0. Other users of previous versions of the program can upgrade for £89 + VAT, and the program itself sells for £295 + VAT.

For upgrades, call the Principal Distribution's upgrade hotline on 0706 831831.

For information on the program's availability and details of your nearest dealer, telephone 081-677 7631.

CHEAP(ISH) CD-ROM

The CD-ROM is a superb way of shipping large volumes of information. Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, the *Guinness Book of Records*, fonts, detailed accounts of renal tumours in children [illegible] are available in CD-ROM format (and often not by any other computerised means).

Indeed, Apple now sends its developers [illegible] their material on CD-ROMs, meaning that they must have a drive.

The problem for Mac users is that, until recently, Macintosh CD-ROM players have all been extortionate prices compared with the PC equivalents. However it looks as though that disparity may slowly be reducing, with an offer from Magnum Software [illegible] a drive plus Monotype font CD-ROM (which includes £480-worth of free fonts) for £499 + VAT. Or, alternatively, you can take the drive for the same price and get £100 off the company's Instant Art CD-ROM. More details from Magnum on 0884 820240.

The company also produces a large collection of *PostScript* illustrations – chiefly maps. These are of extremely high quality, and are certainly worth investigating if you need that sort of thing. Prices are for example £95 for Europe, £95 for the world and £265 for the UK, the rest of Europe and the entire world. The maps can be directly imported into page makeup software such as *XPress* or *PageMaker* and can be edited in programs such as *Adobe Illustrator* and *Aldus Freehand*. The company also supplies 200-plus symbols, based on the British Tourist Board recommended symbols, as a Type 1 PostScript font, EPSs or as PICT files. The symbols cost £59 for the collection in whichever format you require.

For more details and a price-list contact Magnum again on 0884 820240.

Ian Wrigley

CPC

- **Life in the fast lane with speedway software**
- **Getting to grips with the man in the long brown overcoat in *Darkman***
- **Happy days are here again with *Fun School 4***

NOISE AND DUST

Any speedway fans out there? If so, you ought to know about [illegible] Software of Leamington Spa. ET is speedway mad, and is publishing no fewer than three speedway programs for the Amstrad. These are:

- *Team Championship*. This has you chasing the league title, working your way up through the heats, battling through fixtures and generally slogging your way to the top.
- *World League*. More of the same except that eight top countries and riders are taking part. You can elect to manage any of the countries.
- *Speedway Datafile*. This one's a bit different, not being a game at all. Instead, it's a way of keeping track of your favourite sport and personalities via a specially-designed database which can handle match reports, results, rider updates and more.

All three games cost £7 on cassette and £7.50 on disk. Or you can get the whole lot on disk for an all-in price of £18.

Without having seen the programs I can't comment on them. They're none too cheap, but they are the only games for speedway strategy nuts I've ever heard of. Me? Give me GP racing any day. (The only time I ever went to a speedway meet I spent most of my day eating crunchy hot dogs and getting boiler clinker out of my eye.)

DON'T TOUCH METHS

I've been told off by Steve Rae of London for my advice about cleaning tape heads.

"You advised readers to clean their computer tape-heads with a dab of methylated spirits on a clean cloth. DON'T!"

Oh.

"Go to your local chemist and ask for a small bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol, about 50p, and some cotton buds."

Oh.

Continued on page 29 ▶

WATCH THIS SPACE EVERY WEEK!
FOR COMPUTER SUPERDEALS FROM THE
SUPERDEAL SPECIALISTS.

COMMODORE

AMIGA A500 BASE PACK:
A500 computer, mouse, T.V Mod., manuals, Workbench
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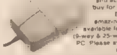

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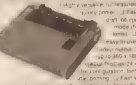

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Oh.

"I hate [illegible] sound pedantic but, believe me, I am right."

Don't you just hate it when other people are right? Thanks for putting us in the know, Steve. Just don't expect a Christmas card, that's all!

THE DEVIL!

David Long has written in chasing a free plug for his Public Domain library, Demon PD. Well, David, you've got it. Now where's my fiver... oops, wasn't supposed to mention that.

The thing [illegible], David's actually got quite a selection of software – 67 of the things, [illegible] be exact. Each selection takes up one side [illegible] [illegible] disk, and the good news for tightwads everywhere is that one selection costs just 50p.

The software on offer covers the whole spectrum of stuff, from demos, [illegible] utilities to serious programs [illegible] games. What's more, if you want to see a full catalogue, that too comes on a disk. This one, though, won't cost you a penny. (You will have to supply a blank disk, though, and a stamped SAE.)

You can get in touch with Demon PD at 47 Hilton Avenue, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0PE.

By the way, David is also flogging [illegible] printer ribbons for the Star LC-10/NL-80 and Amstrad DMP 2000 at £4 and [illegible] respectively.

DARKMAN

Life is no bow [illegible] chemes for *Darkman*. They have taken his manhood (don't like the sound of that), they have even taken his beloved Julie. 'They' being Durant and Strack. If you've seen the film, this will all make sense. If you haven't, well... just keep going anyway. *Darkman* has lost his face in an explosion (yuk) but, using a computer, he can disguise himself as anyone he chooses. And so, *Darkman* is out for revenge...

Anyway, the bottom line [illegible] that this is an Ocean coversion of a film that no-one saw. In it you take on the role of *Darkman* as he pursues his tormentors through six levels of scrolling platform action.

Now Ocean usually manages some pretty damned fine games based on this simple formula (*Batman*, *Total Recall* [illegible] all) but this time the company has produced a [illegible] [illegible] a dead duck. [illegible] basically like *Dick Tracy* without a gun. Oh, and you've got a brown overcoat instead of a banana-coloured one.

Admittedly, *Darkman* looks good, and there's more variety than *Dick Tracy*, but it's still a bit of a bore.

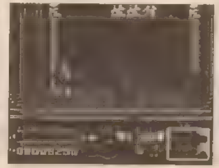
MORE FUN AT SCHOOL?

Blimey, it doesn't seem long ago that *Fun School 3* turned up, and now *Fun School 4* is on the way.

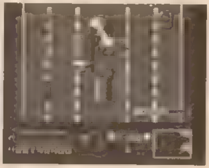
This new series follows the same

Continued on page 30 ➤

● *Darkman level three: the best of the lot. Jump the platforms and dodge the grenades*



● *Darkman has good graphics, but lacks any real*



● *Level five's a change of perspective, hanging from a helicopter to stay alive*

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principles as [illegible] predecessors – three packages, each aimed [illegible] a different age range, and each containing six sub-games. Even the presenters of the three packs are the same – almost.

Yes, it's true. While Freddy the frog [illegible] still with [illegible], and Teddy the bear, Robbie Robot has got the chop. It's all because of the results of a survey amongst eight and nine-year olds that revealed he just didn't have the street cred to cut it any more. Taking his place will be a new character, Sammy the Spy.

In FS4, the under-fives will get [illegible] learn [illegible] about art, maths, words, karaoke (eh?) and more from a Teddy decked out in Reeboks and baseball cap. Cool dude. Five [illegible] seven year olds get their old pal Freddie the frog back, this time teaching them the delights of maths, sequences, word sorting and typing. Super-cool Freddie has a skateboard, by the way. Lastly, Sammy the Spy will be introducing the over-eights to geography, history and general knowledge. We don't yet know what ultra-cool fashion accessory Sammy's going to be sporting yet.

Fun School 4 will be out on the 16-bits towards the end [illegible] October (boo!) and on the CPC in early November (hurrah!)

Rod Lawton

Rod Lawton, editor of *Amstrad Action*, Britain's biggest and best-selling CPC magazine.

CAPTAIN BLOOD CHEAT

This weird game from Infogrames may still be giving you a hard time, so here's a crafty little poke from Belfast's John Girvin. It gives you infinite time...

```
1'CAPTAIN BLOOD hack
2 '(Special Action version)
3 'By John Girvin
4 'January 1991
5 '
10 OPENOUT"d":MEMORY &5FFF
20 CLOSEOUT:MODE 1
30 LOAD "!blood",&6000
40 addr=&BE80:RESTORE
50 READ byte$
60 IF byte$="BLOOD" THEN CALL
&BE80
70 POKE addr,VAL("&"+byte$)
[illegible] addr=addr+1:GOTO [illegible]
90 '** LEAVE ALL LINES IN **
100 DATA f3,21,00,60,11,94,98,01
110 DATA 92,0f,ed,b0,3e,c3,21,a0
120 DATA be,32,16,bd,22,17,bd,c3
130 DATA 94,98,a4,48,4c,46,01,5b
140 DATA 21,af,be,22,4f,a5,21,00
150 DATA 00,22,4c,a5,c3,08,a5,dd
160 DATA 21,fc,a7,11,ca,00,cd,8b
170 DATA a7,[illegible],c2,be,22,c4,a8,c3
180 DATA 33,a8,af,32,0b,49,c3,00
190 DATA 40,BLOOD,4A
```

C64

- **Has the cartridge price slash come too late?**
- **Is *Terminator 2* just another wasted licence?**
- **The add-on from Trojan that'll light up your life**

CARTRIDGES DOWN

You may have read [illegible] *Express* 151 that Ocean has decided to drop the price [illegible] cartridges from £19.99 to £14.99, and no doubt other companies will do the same.

But alas, I feel it is too little, too late. Why didn't the company listen to the consumers [illegible] the first place? Public opinion already underlines that existing cassette/disk games are expensive. [illegible] how is Joe Public supposed to afford £20 for one game?

Admittedly the new price [illegible] about right, but many publishers have lost interest [illegible] the cartridge revolution and it looks as though you, the consumer, will lose out. Again.

Our only hope is that software houses will re-affirm their interest and release some spectacular cartridge games at the right price.

TOLD YOU SO

After my rather sceptical preview [illegible] *Terminator* [illegible] a few issues back, I've been eagerly awaiting the game, just to see if my assumptions were correct, and would you believe, they were.

Levels one, five and nine are out-and-out beat-'em-up sections, featuring huge main characters (made of [illegible] sprites a piece), not to mention taxing (and often tedious) gameplay. The games structure means that energy [illegible] carried over from one level [illegible] the next – if you slip up on these sections, you're doomed.

Level four sees Sarah Connor traversing the corridors of the mental hospital killing anyone in her path, and likewise Arnie in the Cyberdyne lab [illegible] level seven. The beat-'em-up action [illegible] heightened slightly due to the ability to explore different areas.

Levels three and six are one of the major downers of the game – nauseating sliding-tile puzzles. They do not relate to the film [illegible] all, and can become unnecessarily frustrating to play.

Finally, levels two and eight are

Continued on page 32 ➤

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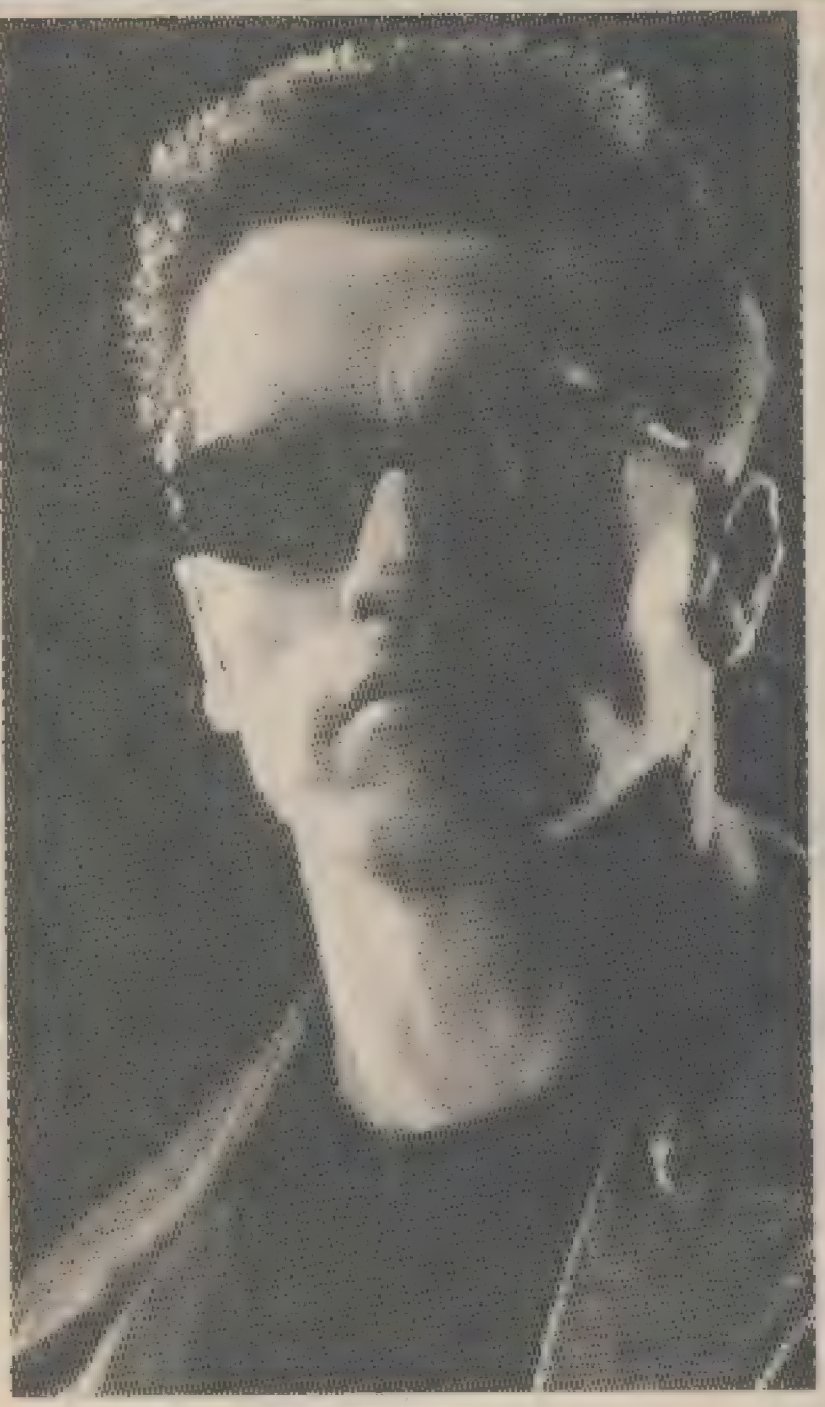

• *Terminator 2* lives up to our suspicions – it's terminally awful!

vertical scrolling sections. The former is a battle to out run the Mac truck on a dirt bike, the latter sees a helicopter in pursuit of our heros in a SWAT van. In retrospect, they were the most enjoyable parts of the game.

Terminator 2 is disappointing to say the least, and is ultimately a wasted licence. Many of the levels have been seen umpteen times before in games such as *Batman* and *Total Recall*. In fact there are no innovative sections whatsoever.

It's a pity, because the music and sound effects are great and the graphics on each level are colourful and often superbly animated. Add to this some atmospheric inter-level screens, and you have an aesthetically pleasing bummer (to coin a phrase).

If you've seen the film and loved it, buy *The Making of Terminator 2* book – you'll save yourself a fiver, and probably have more fun.

LIGHT FANTASTIC

Lightpens and light-equipment have been sparse on the C64 to say the least. In fact Trojan was the only company to release such a peripheral. Quite strange, considering that custom lightpen locations are built into the hardware of the C64.

Well, the company has seen fit to release a substantially modernised lightpen, along with an innovative art package called *Pen-Master*. Alongside this is the Phazer, a light-gun which comes complete with some specially written games.

The Magnum light-gun, bundled with the C64 last year, barely excited me, but the Phazer looks set to be impressive. Both packages are due for release soon, but prices are as yet unknown. More next week.

Andrew Roberts

RE-RELEASE ROUND-UP

There have been quite a few re-releases over the Summer months, some good and some bad. Here's an 'at a glance' overview of some of the better ones...

● XYBOTS (Hit Squad) – A generally very playable coin-op conversion, boasting some neat visual effects. This game certainly comes into its own in two player mode.

● OPERATION THUNDERBOLT (Hit Squad) – The final conversion was the second which Ocean had produced, due to some technical mix-up. It lacks the atmosphere, and the graphics are a little bland, but it's great fun nevertheless.

● CABAL (Hit Squad) – One of the better *Rambo* games around, this static screen shoot 'em down is very hectic, aesthetically gorgeous, and sports some brilliant 3D programming.

● SHINOBI (Mastertronic) – A competent conversion of the best martial arts games. Teh 3D sections are somewhat jerky, but the sheer depth of the games makes up for it.

EASY DRILLING

DRILLER
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FREESCAPE

• **You can drill with ease thanks to our handy poke**

Yep, it's another listing for the Virtual Worlds compilation, lovingly sculpted by Martin Pugh. If you haven't bought it yet, do – it's one of the best around. Anyway, you know the score; type in the program, SAVE it just in case, then RUN for infinite shields and energy.

```
0 REM *DRILLER TAPE CHEAT*
1 FOR X=533 TO 577:READ
   Y:C=C+Y:POKE X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C=5085 THEN POKE
157,128:
   SYS533
3 PRINT"DATA ERROR"
4 DATA 169,34,141,40,3,169,2,
   141,41,3,32,86
5 DATA 245,169,11,141,206,1,
   96,72,77,80,169,240
6 DATA 141,108,100,141,221,
   113,141,57,100,141,229,111
7 DATA
141,97,119,141,192,111,
   76,235,2*
```

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The final disk is the Micro Haus General Shareware Volume 1, a world class product which enjoyed huge success in the CD-ROM arena. Containing 10,000 files, it features some of the best Shareware and Public Domain software ever to be published. It is probably the best method of reviewing software on a 'try before you buy' basis.

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SPECTRUM

- **Make Music – Metronome routine and Writer club**
- **New SAM Coupé adventure club**
- **Two Spectrum publications bite the dust**

MUSIC ANONYMOUS

Attention Speccy musos! [illegible] you're scoring a sonic masterpiece with the help of the superb music creation utility, *Music Writer*, here's a club, that you'll want to be seen at.

Die hard composer folk can find solace and fellow addicted users with the formation of Music Writers Anonymous This is a new club set up by author Gary Rowlands for everyone using *Music Writer* MWA provides, free of charge, a swop shop for your MSC and compiled music files.

There's no membership fee and sets [illegible] around eight songs are being made available for a very reasonable £1 on tape and £3 on disk.

Sounds like a good idea to me Contact G. Rowland. PO BOX 49 Dagenham RM9 5NY for more details

TICK TOCK

On a similarly musical note (and pathetic pun) here's just the thing for Spectrum owning musicians. The very clever Calum Benson of Hamilton supplied me with the following excellent little program

It's a three line metronome that's easily amplified through a hi-fi and provides as many Beats Per Minute as you want!

Simply enter the number [illegible] beats required when prompted

Calum says "astute readers will soon notice how to have alternating border colours if they feel so inclined and any other improvements will probably require modification to the delay loop (line [illegible] but as it stands, 11200 is as accurate as makes no difference."

Thanks for sending it Calum. Have you got a short(ish) Speccy routine that the rest [illegible] us would find useful? Send it in to Robin Alway Spectrum Column, *New Computer Express* 30 Monmouth Street. Bath BA1 2BW Ta

NEW PD SOURCE

News of the decidedly good variety! A new Spectrum Public Domain library has come into being.

Chief librarian of Propac PD, Alex Kinch has already got some pretty well stacked shelves with around 70 titles at last count covering areas as diverse as games, communications, programming and cocktail making. By the time you read this he should have lots more though, including the now deceased Speccy Sector's collection.

Like all good PD librarians of course he wants more and won't rest until he gets it! Have you got any programs you would like to be available cheaply to fellow Spec chums, without copyright restrictions and basically, be of interest to lots of people? Write to Alex Kinch at 153 Pickhurst Rise, Bromley, Kent BR4 0AG or phone him on 081 777 6241 (After 7pm weekdays and anytime weekends.)

Propac's first catalogue should be out soon and I wish them good luck and look forward to sampling some good PD soon

SAM UNITED

As far as I know there's only a few adventure style games available for the SAM so it's perhaps a tad surprising to hear about a SAM Coupé adventures club.

If anything it shows the enthusiasm of founder members Phil Glover and Dave Whitmore. The aim of the club, Phil tells me 'will be to stimulate and encourage adventuring on this fine machine'.

Due to the, ahem, slight shortage of Coupé specific adventures, any suitable Speccy games that run on the SAM will be mentioned [illegible] the club's disk magazine that the adventurous pair have already started writing

Before officially launching the club however, Phil wants to see if any other people are interested in this venture. As he says "Even if there are only half a dozen of us, it will be worthwhile. At least we could moan about the lack of software at the moment!"

SAM adventurers interested in this idea would do well to contact Phil Glover at 43 Ferndale Road, Hall Green, Birmingham. West Midlands B28 9AU.

GOODBYE ENIGMA

The rumours of a few months ago are now unfortunately fact *Enigma Tape Magazine* is deceased.

Here's Jon Rose, on behalf of the *ETM* team to tell you why "I am writing to you to let you know of the untimely death of *Enigma Tape Magazine*. It passed away peacefully a few weeks ago and no flowers should be sent. Donations to the above address

"Seriously, Graeme has gone off to college, Hamish is working on a new project I'm going to try my hand at some more general writing work and the rest

Continued on page 34 ▶

Don't buy a High Resolution Monitor

until you've checked out **The Monulator**, an incredible new software utility which turns **any** TV or colour monitor into a genuine mono monitor capable of displaying **every single pixel** [illegible] the ST's superb High Resolution screen

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

the *ETM* team have gone [illegible] do their own thing. Can I take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all the team, all those people who bought the mag and said such decent things about us and also all those people on the 'proper' mags (yourself included) who gave us such great reviews. Goodbye and thanks for all the fish (?!)."

Sniff. *ETM* was undoubtably one of the best Speccy publications. It will be sorely missed.

...AND CRASH

Farewell then *Crash*. Newsfield's bankruptcy means the end of the long running Speccy mag that at one time was the best selling computer title in Britain.

Crash was an important organ in its heyday, scrupulously fair when reviewing games, catering for the broad base of the Speccy owning community and encouraging reader interaction whenever possible. Although those days were long gone, *Crash* still sold in reasonable numbers and it would be nice to see the title relaunched by another publishing house. If that doesn't happen though, may it rest in peace.

Robin Alway

POKE IN THE EYE

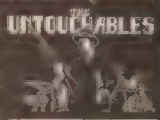
Only [illegible] pokes and cheats for you this week but you can get hold of a whole [illegible] more of the things from [illegible] column sneakster, Alan Johns (42 Aytoun Drive, Erskine, Renfrewshire PA8 6DE).

His new Multiface poke [illegible] is out now and costs £5 plus A4 SAE (or £6.50).

Knowing Alan's poking abilities intimately it's sure [illegible] pretty authoritative.

Here's something [illegible] on with though:

Untouchables – [illegible]
Tornado ECR – [illegible]
Helter Skelter – [illegible]
Robocop 2 – redefine keys [illegible]
New Zealand Story – Type [illegible]



● If you've run out of time, then our Untouchables poke is the answer

CONSOLES

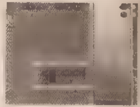
● **Yanks come up trumps with Turbo-Grafx adaptor**
● **Experience life as a big, blue blob in *JerryBoy***
● **A dazzling cornucopia of games from Konami**

TURBO CHARGED

There have been a number of adaptors for consoles in the past so you can run certain games on different machines, but unfortunately, there hasn't an an adaptor made which can run American Turbo-Grafx-16 games on the PC Engine.

However, the lucky Yanks can have it the other way round, as you can now pick up an adaptor to run Japanese cards on your American machine for about £65.

So, if you're thinking of buying a PC Engine, consider a Turbo Grafx-16!



● ***Jerry Boy*** **- to avoid lava you have to launch yourself and stick to the right wall**

SILLY PUTTY

The strangest game this week comes from Epic/Sony called *JerryBoy* for the Super Famicom. You have been turned into a bright blue blob by a nasty magician and must travel across the land to find the evil sod so you can return to your former self.

The blob can slide around, jump, squash himself or elongate, stick on to walls and ceilings, and when located, fire balls and bombs. Up against you are some very dangerous hazards including negotiating be-spiked sewers, traps, icy slopes, plus mice, birds, bugs, penguins and various other creatures – however, like *Mario*, you can jump on to them, and squash them, although certain nasties really must be avoided such as the moving flames.

Reach the end and you must face the enemy boss. The first is a large

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chicken, which charges for you. *Jerry Boy* is certainly [illegible] very different game, fairly playable, and quite difficult [illegible] that.

BOMB OF A GAME

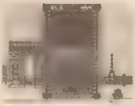
The super duper PC Engine game from Hudson Soft. *Bomber Man* has been snapped up by Irem, and will be hitting the arcades real soon

Unfortunately, the multi-player game is only two players, but there are two other computer opponents to battle against, so it's not that bad. Irem has beefed up the graphics, but all the playability [illegible] the engine game remains.. I can't wait!!

MORE FROM KONAMI

Latest from the games expert company Konami for the 8-bit Nintendo will [illegible] a conversion of Atari Games' strategy arcade game, *Rampart*.

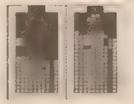
● Sharpen up your skills of precision with the *Bomber Man*



● Bomb until your heart's content in *Tetris 2+ BomBliss*

If you haven't played the coin-op it's goes like this. You have a castle with a wall around it, and can place a number of cannons inside. If you are playing with another player they have the same too. You then have a cursor and have a few seconds to target your cannons at the opposition's surrounding wall to cause as much damage as possible. Then, you have a few seconds to fill in the gaps [illegible] your damaged walls [illegible] the computer dishing out *Tetris* like shapes. If you don't completely surround your castle, then it's game over

Rampart should be available in Japan early November. Also from Konami will be *Konamic Golf* for the Game Boy again available in early November and this looks like a Golf game really worth getting. Although it's basically just a top-down view over the course, control of hitting the ball is based on their coin-ops where you can set your stance, change which club you want [illegible] use etc



● *Tetris 2:* Two player action aas on the Game Boy

The Russians are Back the biggest game to to hit Japan on the 8-bit Nintendo in October is bound to be the release [illegible] *Tetris 2* comprising *BomBliss*. The game again is by those crazy Russians, who incidentally don't live [illegible] the USSR but in the USA working for Ascii, so weren't affected by all the going ons that've been happening in their home country.

Tetris 2 is basically the same as the original but more like Game Type B on the Game Boy version, as you have a lot of random blocks at the bottom of the column, and you must clear them. However, as time goes on, more random blocks appear pushing you higher, so you have [illegible] work even harder.

BomBliss, as you might guess from the title, [illegible] *Tetris* with bombs. It's like the above, but some blocks contain pink squares (bombs) and when a line is created with them in, they explode, taking out blocks around them.

If bombs are close to exploding bombs, they will also go off causing a chain reaction, so some strategy is required [illegible] position any shapes with bombs carefully

The game includes a two player option, a contruction kit, and more, and will be released by Bullet Proof Software.

MEGATIPS

[illegible]

GAME MUSIC

Here in the UK, we all know the likes of Rob Hubbard and Martin Galway as the best computer musicians [illegible] the business, but right over there Japan, there's only one real mega musician – and that [illegible] Yuzo Koshiro

Anyone who has heard [illegible] fantastic music on Megadrive games, *Super Shinobi* and *Bare Knuckle*, or *Actraiser* on the SuperFamicom will know this guy has talent

Well, by the time you read this, Yuzo will have two music CDs out. One is called 'BareKnuckle', and the other is 'Symphonic suite from Actraiser', both featuring music from the game. Both are on the Alfa label, so check out your local music importers

Onn Lee

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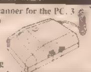

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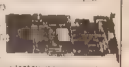

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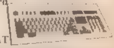

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TECH TIPS

[illegible]

Mystery Modem

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I hope you can help me with this matter, as I feel that other ST users could benefit also.

Darren P Goodwin, Rotherham

THE PRISM 1000 dates back to the early 80s, and I think it was a Sinclair specific device, although I am not certain on this point. Unfortunately the makers of Prism modems, OEL, ceased to be a viable concern back in 1985. Unless the modem has a standard 25-pin D connector, then I would not advise trying to connect it to the Mega 2ST as it is likely to be unbuffered output.

Frankly, the 5 pin DIN socket sounds more like the power supply socket than anything else. However, I am sure that somebody out there will have a manual for the Prism 1000 modem that they no longer require. If so could they send it in to *Express* and we will pass it on to Mr Goodwin.

You would be better off getting a new modem such as a Pace Linnet. I have seen several adverts in the computer press for these starting at around £40. Details on VTX 5000 modems can be had from B G Services which seems to have cornered the market for this particular product. B G Services is on 081 3970763.

Comms question

I'm fascinated by that page you print from time to time with all the "bulletin boards" on it. I fancy the idea of using my Amstrad to have a go, but I have three questions:

1) What exactly is a bulletin board?

2) What equipment do I need to use one?

3) What do all those codes like "V21" mean in the list?

I'd appreciate some answers before I spend a fortune!

John Barley, Pontypool

COMMS IS INDEED A FASCINATING AREA, but beware, it can become addictive and you'll find yourself "on-line" at all hours of the night! Anyway, to your questions.

1) A bulletin board is a system for leaving messages and having "conversations" over the telephone system using a computer. You ring the number and using your computer you can read the messages, reply to them, and leave your own. Plus there are usually dozens (if not hundreds) of PD programs on these boards which you can copy ("download" in the parlance) to your machine. Each board has a very different style, because of the people who use it and the preferences of the person who runs it, called a "sysop". Some only cater for one machine or specialist interest, but many welcome all.

2) You need a modem (the device which converts computer signals to sound so they can be sent by phone), some cables to connect it to your PC, and software on your PC to drive it. You need to make two decisions before buying a modem: should it be internal or external, and how fast it should be.

Internal modems sit on an expansion card and slot away neatly inside the PC. External ones come in their own box, requiring cabling, and need their own power supply. External modems are more expensive because the box and power supply need to be added, so unless you intend to use the modem with several machines, go for an internal one.

The question "how fast should it be?" is probably better phrased "how fast can you afford". Modem speeds are measured in baud, and they come in 300, 1,200, 2,400 and 9,600 baud varieties. Don't buy a 300 baud unit; they are breathtakingly slow and will cripple you with boredom and excessive phone bills. 1,200 baud is a useful minimum, but 2,400 is better and is the common "home" speed. 9,600 baud modems are still too expensive for most, but prices are dropping.

The software issue is easier. Many modems are supplied with a comms program, but if they aren't there are many excellent shareware programs such as *Telix* and *ProComm* which cost very little and are available from PD libraries. For home use, a commercial comms program is overkill.

And finally 3) The numbers are codes which tell comms enthusiasts what modem speeds to use when dialling the bulletin boards. They were developed to try to make comms simpler and to cut away the jargon, but unfortunately they have only succeeded in adding an extra layer of confusion to the newly initiated. There are dozens of codes but the commonest are:

V21 – 300 baud
V22 – 1,200 baud
V22bis – 2,400 baud

If you buy a 2,400 baud modem then you can use any board which has one or more of these codes.

Guidelines

I've designed our Guides newsletter using *Avagio* as I do every month, before sending the disk to a friend so she can print them on her laser printer. But this month I hit a problem; because of a large number of pictures in the document it's 400K big, and won't fit on a floppy. What can I do?

Catherine Consett, Norwich

WELL YOU COULD UPGRADE your disk drive to a 3.5-inch 720K drive, but I guess that isn't a very helpful answer. You have two choices. You can use the DOS BACKUP command to copy the file on to two disks, then RESTORE it at the other end, or more elegantly you can shrink the file using one of several file compression programs. My favourite is *PKZip*, which is shareware and available from any library. It should have no problem getting a DTP document to shrink enough to fit on a disk. By the way, have you tried "Saving As..." the document to a new name? With several DTP programs this can shrink the file quite dramatically as the new copy is written to disk more efficiently. I don't know if this works for *Avagio*, but it's worth a try.

Saving typing

A quick one from Alan Gerrard in the wilds of Dorset. If you find you are forever typing:

```
dir /w |more
```

in packed directories, create a batch file with just that command in it and name it LIST.BAT or whatever and put it in the DOS directory. Then just typing LIST will save your fingers wear and tear. Of course this can be extended to any command you use frequently.

Paul Johnson, Stevenage, Herts

DIP switch

I've recently bought a second-hand printer without manuals, and I can't figure out the DIP switch settings.

The printer is a Brother M-1109 dot matrix, and I know I am using the correct printer driver, because I had one of these printers before. I also know that the printer works, because I've seen it work on another (non-Amiga) system.

What I'd like is for someone with one of these printers and an Amiga to write in and let me know what the switch settings should be.

PA Bellamy, Sheffield

I'M AFRAID I'M NOT FAMILIAR with this printer. Are there any readers out there who can help?

Fat or thin?

I keep hearing all of this talk of Fat and Thin Agnuses, Chip and Fast RAM, and God only knows what else. Can you please explain to me what it all means, and how I can find out exactly what I have inside my Amiga 500?

T Small, Bromley, Kent

THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT of confusion on this subject. I'll begin by explaining the difference between Fast and Chip RAM.

As you are no doubt aware, the Amiga has, as well as its 68000 microprocessor, a number of custom chips which deal with graphics, sound and so on. The chip most directly concerned with graphics is the Agnus chip. It is an intelligent beast, and performs by accessing to memory directly, without the aid of the microprocessor. But whereas the microprocessor can access all of the Amiga's memory, Agnus is much more limited in the memory it can 'see'.

For most Amigas, the Agnus can address half a megabyte. This memory is known as Chip RAM, since it is available to the custom chips. Obviously, the more Chip RAM you have, the better, since it means you can have more and bigger pictures, longer sound samples

Battlechess ST vs Ami

I have an Atari 1040STFM and my neighbour has an Commodore Amiga 500. We don't fight or argue about the merits of our respective machines as we are both more than satisfied with what we have got!

We both have copies of *Battlechess* for our machines, and we have noticed that there is an option where a player can be controlled by either computer, human or modem.

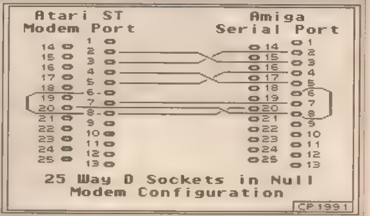
Does this mean that we can connect our computers together via modems so that we can play against each other? Or even get the two machines against each other? Then we will see if My Computer Really Is Better Than His Computer, won't we?

Can we link up for other games besides *Battlechess*?

Chris Hollister, Bristol

AH, YES, an interesting contest in the offing here. You certainly can set up the machines to play each other in *Battlechess* and you don't need to buy modems as long as you don't mind being in the same room, or make up a long lead. You simply need two 25 way D sockets and a length of screened multi-core cable, to make up an RS232 lead called a 'Null Modem'.

Connections are as follows, Atari end to Amiga end. See the diagram (above right).



• 25 way D sockets and some screened multi-core cable are all your need to make a 'Null modem' to connect an Atari ST to a Commodore Amiga 500

Pin 2 to pin 3
Pin 4 to pin 5
Pin 8 to pin 20
Pin 20 to pin 8

Pin 3 to pin 2
Pin 5 to pin 4
Pin 7 to pin 7

At both ends link pin 6 to pin 8 with a small loop of wire. This type of lead can also be used to transfer data and files between the two machines using suitable comms software. Electronic bits available from your local Maplins or electronics store, cost about five pounds in total (depending on the length of cable you use). If you have not got a Maplins store in your area, the new Maplins mail order catalogue is available at WH Smiths. Maplins mail order no. 0702 554161.

and smoother, more complex animations.

When Agnus accesses Chip RAM, it prevents the processor from doing so at the same time, and this causes programs to run more slowly. Therefore, processor accesses to RAM which is not Chip RAM occur more quickly. Such RAM is called Fast RAM.

Commodore has released a number of different Agnuses in the Amiga's short history. Each of them has a serial number printed on its face. The earliest was the 8361. After that came the Fat Agnus, numbered 8371 (and the 8370, which is the American equivalent). All of these can access half a megabyte of Chip RAM.

More recently, Commodore has started fitting Amigas with the Fatter Agnus (no. 8372a) which can access 1Mb of RAM. There is yet another model, currently available only for Amiga 3000s, which can access 2Mb of RAM.

You can find out how much Chip and Fast RAM you have by entering the Shell and typing 'avail'. You will be told how much of each type of memory is available, and also how much there is in total.

However, you may very well have a Fatter Agnus and yet only 0.5Mb of Chip RAM. This is because A500s are shipped without a circuit board modification being made which lets the Fatter Agnus see the other 0.5Mb (assuming that you actually have that much physical RAM). If this is the case, you can get an authorised Commodore service engineer to make the alteration.

If you only have 0.5Mb of Chip RAM but suspect that you have a Fatter Agnus, you can either open your Amiga and look at the chip's serial number (thus invalidating your warranty), or get hold of a public domain utility called VectaCheck which will do the rummaging around inside for you and tell you which Agnus you have.

Second-hand trials

I have an Amiga 500 with a 0.5Mb expansion in the trapdoor. Having bought a second-hand copy of *X-Copy Professional* and *Cyclone 3*, and being under the impression that these would enable me to use IBM and ST format disks, I set about buying a large quantity of PC software from a computer market. I've tried many of times, but I cannot get any of these programs to copy or work. Have I wasted my money, or is there something I'm doing wrong?N

Fredrick Masterson, Victoria, London

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE ABLE to read PC and ST format disks, you will not be able to run any programs written for these computers. In general, programs have to be written specifically for a target computer, since computers all work in different ways and obey different instructions.

The only way you will be able to get any use out of your PC programs on the Amiga is to buy one of the several PC emulators.

Second Drive

I am thinking of getting a second drive to use with my STE. Is there a real advantage to having two floppy drives? Can I connect more than two floppies to the STE? Do I have to use the Atari own brand drive to avoid voiding my warranty, or is it safe to use other manufacturers drives?

Is it safe to use a drive powered from the joystick socket? My friend says that it can cause the computer to overheat. Are all external drives double-sided, or do I have to ask specifically?

John Wilson, Derry City, NI

1) YES THERE IS an advantage to using two floppy disk drives, increased data transfer rates when moving files between disks and you can use drive B as a data drive when using applications such as word processors and graphics/art packages whilst keeping the program disk in drive A. Some programs such as *First Word Plus* require you to keep the program disk in the drive at all times.
2) The Atari [illegible] is limited by its hardware to two floppies.
3) Any brand of drive can be used as long as it is [illegible] compatible. This will be clearly stated in advertisements and in the box.
4) Several drives are available that are powered from the joystick port, and whilst I have not heard of any problems caused by this I would not recommend it. There is usually only a £5 to £10 price difference to models with their own power supply.
5) All commercial drives on the market are double-sided.

There are several companies advertising in *Shopping Express* which can supply you with drives at very reasonable prices.

In a fix

I'm writing to verify what can be wrong with my Atari 520STFM. I bought it about a year ago, second hand. The problem is when I initially switch on the computer, it makes a high pitched ringing sound, the power light does not come on, neither does the disk drive light.

I've heard different stories as to what it could be, but nothing professional. I would be grateful if you could tell me what is wrong and if it is fixable?

Malcolm Nical, Aberdeen

IT CERTAINLY SEEMS that you have some problems with your machine. It could be one of several things, ranging from the sound chip to the power supply. I would advise you to contact a professional Atari repair centre, as it is not wise to investigate the inside of your machine if you are not sure what you are doing, and it is unlikely that you will be able to effect a repair yourself.

In fact some repair shops won't even touch a computer if they think it has been tampered with. Evesham Micros provides a fixed rate Atari repair service for £65, which is as reasonable a rate as you can get. Evesham can be contacted on 0386 765500.

Clocking in

I would like to program my Amiga so that it displays the system clock every time it boots up. How do I go about it?

Patrick Baker, Redcar, Cleveland

AS WELL AS BEING AVAILABLE as an icon, the clock can also be run from the Shell, which is exactly what needs to be done in this case. You must modify your startup-sequence (using an editor such as ED), adding the following line before the 'loadwb' command.

```
run <nil: >nil: clock
digital1=240,0 24hour seconds
date
```

The run command is used so that the clock becomes a background process, otherwise Workbench would not load until the clock had been stopped. ■

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● BYTES - Amiga users and PD group, 295 Penlei Green Rd, Llansamlet, Swansea. Tel: 0792 772745

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● ICPUG - For all Commodore computers. Free PD, Write to ICPUG, PO Box 1309, London, N3 2UT

User Groups

A

ACORN ARCHIMEDES Archive [illegible] Norwich NR4 [illegible]

THE ADVENTURE & STRATEGY CLUB [illegible] Adventure, strategy RPG, simulation [illegible] [illegible] Adventure & Strategy Club, 17 Shender Road London E12 6QT

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AMIGA HELPLINE SERVICES - Free club for young and old. Send SAE to G Keenan 21 Shiras Place Glasgow, G23 4EE.

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AMSTRAD CPC USERS Tony Baker United Amstrad User Group 26 Uplands Crescent Fareham Hants PO16 7JY Tel 0329 234 21

AMSTRAD CPC HOME USERS - Steve Williams WACCI 9 South Close Twickenham TW2 5JE Tel 081-898 1090

AMSTRAD LOCAL GROUPS Amstrad Groups Federation 4 Sutton Road Gorton Manchester

AMSTRAD PC SOFTWARE Colin Smith Colber [illegible] Penwood close, Westbury Wilts BA13

AMSTRAD PCW Bob Ellis "Rowan" [illegible] St Peters Close Moreton-on-Lugg Hereford HR4 8DW 0432 [illegible] 860

AMSTRAD PCW CLUB - Meets monthly in Ealing London W7 and welcomes experienced PCW users and beginners. Details from Tony Brown [illegible]

AMSTRAD 1512/1640/PPC PC Independent User Group The Computer Advice Centre 87 High Street Tonbridge Kent Phone [illegible]

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APPLE II USERS [illegible] 051 9284142.

APPLE MACINTOSH. John Lewis Macintosh user group Macintosh House 11 South Parade.

Summertown Oxford OX2 [illegible]

APPLE SYSTEMS - Jane Flaxman Apple 2000 PO Box 3 Liverpool L21 8PY

ARABIC COMPUTING - [illegible] Worthing West Sussex [illegible]

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C

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CD ROM - UK CD ROM User Group High Wings Salem Trelogys, Aberaeron 0792 844 378

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CID - Computers and Integration for the Disabled is a registered charity [illegible] Gordon, [illegible] Road [illegible], Aberdeenshire AB5 9QZ or tel 0467 [illegible]

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COMMUNITY COMPUTING - Community Computing Network 2nd Floor 35 Pink Lane Newcastle NE1 5DW [illegible]

COMPUNET - write to Independent Compunet Club 144 Furze[illegible] Road Boreham Wood Herts WD6 2DX

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CPM & MSDOS Users Group - [illegible] Birkbeck Road Wimbledon London SW19 8NZ Tel 081-543 0824

CRYPTOGRAPHY & CODES Mike Barlow, American Cryptogram Association 5052 Chestnut Avenue Pierrefonds Quebec H8Z 2A0 Canada

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DATAEASE USER GROUP - High Tech House, 10 Blackfriars Street Norwich NR3 1SF

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ENET (like Econet) T K Boyd, Enet (Amcom) User Gp. Seaford Cottage Petworth West Sussex

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M

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AUDIO UPGRADE

If you're looking for the best in Amiga sound sampling technology, then there can be only one choice - RamScan's *Audio Engineer*.

Released last year to critical acclaim *Audio Engineer* has rapidly established itself as the number one Amiga sampler. Even now other developers are only just starting to catch up with what is generally acknowledged as the number one in Amiga sampling technology.

Not wanting to be outdone, RamScan have announced the launch of version 2 of its renowned sampling software. The *Audio Engineer* sampling hardware (expertly engineered by GSoft) has remained unchanged, but RamScan has considerably upgraded the *Audio Engineer* software to distinguish it from the rest of the pack.

According to UK distributor HB Marketing, the new program will also be sold as a stand alone system without the GSoft hardware through Aegis/Oxxi.

Selling under the name *AudioMaster 4* both products are available from HB Marketing which is on the other end of 0753 686000.

Anyway, here's what it has to offer -

4 Times Oversampling - Now here's a first for an Amiga sampler. *Audio Engineer 2* now supports 4 times oversampling, a feature which is probably more at home on a CD player than a sampler.

This new feature significantly enhances the sound quality of recordings made at lower sampling rates by substantially reducing the aliasing distortion normally associated with samples grabbed at lower sampling rates. In many cases, this will allow you to sample at much lower rates whilst retaining respectable sound quality. With this powerful capability, longer samples can be grabbed with less memory.

• Look out for a major upgrade to RamScan's *Audio Engineer* real soon. Offering four times oversampling and time stretch facilities, AudioEngineer has once again established itself as the Amiga number one

Time/Pitch Bend - Wow. Now this is impressive. *Audio Engineer 2* now has the ability to alter a sound's pitch and duration independently.

If, for example you have a sample that plays for 20 seconds, *Audio Engineer 2* can stretch the sound to last for 25 seconds without altering the pitch of the sound. It's also possible to make the pitch of the sound higher or lower without altering the duration of the sound.

The applications for this feature are enormous. Imagine for example you're using *Audio Engineer* to add sampled music and sound effects to a video you're working on and the sample you have lasts 5 seconds less than you actually want it to. With *Audio Engineer*, you can stretch that sample with ease - the only professional samplers that I know that can do this are the *Akai S1100* and the infamous *Synclavier* (and they cost many thousands of pounds!)

Realtime Pitch Bend - Another first for an Amiga sampler is real time pitch bend which allows you to alter the pitch of a sample as it is being recorded or played back in real time. Most professional samplers support this, but *Audio Engineer* is the first Amiga sampler to do so.

Audio DJ - A new bonus program that comes with *Audio Engineer 2* is *Audio DJ*. The program allows you to load up to 180 samples into your Amiga (memory permitting) and then play any sound simply by clicking on it with the mouse pointer.

Not only can it be used as a preview tool for your samples library, but it also serves as a real time effects panel for DJ's and anyone else who should require such a facility.

And the rest - Add to all these new features Realtime Zoom (just like *Audition 4*), Telephoto, On screen calibration, progress meter, automatic hardware filter, digital filtering and a lot more besides.

GVP GUARANTEE X 2

Silica are well chuffed with themselves at the moment. Not only have they recently picked up exclusive distribution rights to Great Valley Products' wide range of absolutely brilliant add-ons, but they're rapidly becoming the number one supplier of Amiga related products in the UK.

To mark the occasion, Silica (in conjunction with GVP) have announced that as from now all GVP products bought through Silica carry a two year guarantee - which is a year more than the previous guarantee period.

If you're in the market for such things as hard drives, processor accelerators and such like, you won't go far wrong with GVP. Indeed, I'd go so far as to say that GVP products are probably the best you can buy.

In particular, GVP do a particulary nice line in hard drives for both the A500 and the B2000 (A1500). Its series 2 hard drives for the 2000 are not only some of the most advanced available for the Amiga but also the fastest. Why not check them out for yourself?

To find out more about GVP products and the rest of the Silica product line, give Silica a call on 081 309 1111.

HARD DISK HEAVEN

Hard disk owners looking for a reliable way of backing up their drives may be interested in a new product which is being distributed in the UK by HB Marketing (☎ 0753 686000).

Called *MR BackUp Professional*, the program not only allows you to back up your drive to floppy disk, but also to any SCSI-compatible device including tape streamers and DAT drives. What's more, it's damned cheap - just £50 to you.

386 ATONCE SOON

Staying at Silica, the company recently revealed to me that a 386-based version of its successful Vortex ATonce PC Emulator is in the pipeline. Soon to be released on the ST, the Amiga version of ATonce386 should follow soon after.

Vortex had originally intended to release both the Amiga and ST versions almost simultaneously, but it has encountered problems trying to get the '386 to work with the Amiga. According to Silica's press officer, Andy Leaning, the simplicity of the ST's architecture makes it much easier for the '386 to work, but he hopes that the Amiga version should not be far behind. At the present time, no firm details are available, but I'll bring you more as soon as I hear it.

If you can't wait that long, then the 286 version of ATonce is still available and a very nice piece of kit indeed which will allow your Amiga to run PC software alongside Amiga software thanks to the joys of Amiga multitasking.

And, as always, I'll bring you a full review as soon as those nice people at Silica send me a review sample.

☎ For more information give Silica a bell on 081 309 1111 for more

Jason Holborn

PIXEL 3D OBJECT CONVERTER UPGRADED

Also new from HB Marketing is an upgraded release of *Pixel 3D*, the absolutely stonking object converter for ray tracing programs.

Just like the original, the program allows you to convert objects between a variety of different programs including *Sculpt, 3D Professional, Turbo Silver*, Imagine, *VideoScape* and even *AutoCAD* (the PC CAD program). *AutoCAD* supports extend to saving only, but it's nice to have it nonetheless.

New features include the ability to view the object being converted in wireframe, solid, shaded or photo mode (ray traced, I suppose), the ability to convert bitmapped images to 3D objects which is handy for digitised logos, text etc), line straightening algorithms (reduces the amount of points in an object), colour defined extrusion, normal extrusion and bevelling and much more besides.

I'll be bringing you a review of this powerful package next week, so stay tuned.

If you can't quite wait that long, then phone HB yourself on 0753 686000. Don't forget to tell them *Express* sent you!

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ST

- The word processor is mightier than the pen and the new upgrade of *Protext* is the mightiest of all
- Are you stuck for a word? *Rhyme King* can help
- Which software company is helping out new bands?

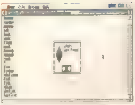
You're probably sick to death by now of reading how wonderful the new version (5.5) of Arnor's *Protext* is, so I won't wibble on about it for too long. Having said that, I have to admit that all the praise it has been getting is justified.

For anyone who wants a word processor to write text in bulk, perhaps for import into another program, *Protext* is the program to go for. It doesn't mess about with fonts, WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) and [illegible] that nonsense. It doesn't even use GEM (except for the menus and the file selector). This approach is a little daunting at first, especially for those newer ST owners that have been weaned on a diet of GEM, but once you're used to it you'll never look back.

Version 5.5 fixes the only major problem with *Protext*, the lack of a thesaurus. Some people wouldn't be seen dead using one, but any right-minded soul will know how useful they can sometimes be – even more so if it's on hand at all times.

The thesaurus works in the same way as the dictionary, being loaded from disk as needed, so memory space isn't wasted. It has 43,000 entry points (ie things you can look up) and 827000 responses, which is, er, quite a lot really. It's point-and-click; any of the listed responses that take your fancy can [illegible] clicked on to obtain another list of words (and so on ad infinitum if you're not careful).

There are some more minor changes. The spell checker will now detect if you've used the same word twice twice in a row (not such a silly mistake as you may think) and checks that each sentence begins with a capital letter. The word count option has been expanded to give you some stats about your copy, such as the average word and sentence length, the number of different words used and even a complete [illegible] of every word used together with [illegible] frequency.



• Whaddaya mean, Atari not found? There are plenty of words that rhyme with Atari. Ferrari, for instance. And – um – dairy (almost)

Automatic hyphenation (something that, strangely enough, seems [illegible] be more common with desktop publishing programs) has been incorporated too. This can help reduce the amount of blank space in justified text by splitting long words at appropriate places. Naturally this will only [illegible] useful if you're planning [illegible] print from *Protext* itself, but it does work well.

A new conversion format has been added. You now have the option of converting to RTF (Rich Text Format). This is used by a lot [illegible] Apple Macintosh software (the most prominent one probably being Microsoft *Word*). [illegible] If you use a Mac at work and write on your [illegible] at home, for instance, this could save you a lot of time trying [illegible] transfer files between the two.

The on-line Help option has been revamped and the info [illegible] now displayed inside a homemade scrollable window. Any highlighted word [illegible] the text can be clicked on [illegible] find out more help for that particular command. At last, the on-line help [illegible] really useful, especially for finding out about those more esoteric commands when the manual [illegible] propping up next door's greenhouse.

The only disappointing thing about *Protext 5.5* (apart from its need for 1MB [illegible] memory) [illegible] [illegible] price – £152.75. Even the upgrade from version 5 is £30. But if you can afford it *Protext* [illegible] the word processor to buy; it's lasted for over five years and it's not about [illegible] become redundant now.

• *Protext 5.5* was used to write this very page! Spooky, huh? (Well, no, perhaps not.) The thesaurus is in full swing here

Arnor [illegible] at 611 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 3HA. ☎ 0733 68909 (Incidentally, try going to the Help menu, choosing About Named Subject and typing in 'Stylewriter'.

UNBELIEVABLE (EXCEPT IT'S NOT)

Microdeal is fit to burst with excitement, all because its Replay sampler was featured running on an ST on Channel 4's *Sixthirtysomething* at the beginning of September. And the demonstrators? None other than those cheekie chaps with the strange shorts and vacant-voiced vocalist, EMF.

But then Microdeal is used to fame. Apparently its sampler has been used in videos by King Bee (er, who?) and – yes! – Paula Abdul. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that its (rather rashly-stated) policy is to give away free products to known and up-'n'-coming artists. Doubtless St Austell is about to be invaded by thousands of 'not quite made it yet' artists all claiming their free gear.

Of course, this is further proof (as if any were needed) that the ST is the computer to own if you're even faintly interested in music. Or EMF.

NOVELTY ISLAND

Go on, admit it. How many times have you been stuck for a rhyme? That embarrassing moment when you just can't think [illegible] anything. What fits with 'transubstantiation'? How can you make 'orange' work? There's one thing you need – a rhyming dictionary.

And, as it happens, BSA Dataware can do you one cheap with no questions asked. [illegible] program *Rhyme King* will find combinations beyond your wildest dreams. Just type in the word you want to find a rhyme for, wait a couple of seconds and a whole list is displayed.

It doesn't just handle straightforward rhymes, either. You can search for alliterative words (ones which have the same initial letter [illegible] people, pepper, piper), consonance rhymes (where the final consonant stays the same but the vowels differ ie people/ripple) and assonance rhymes (only the final vowel sounds rhyme ie meet/seen/greed).

Most of the time the program works well, but occasionally it'll throw up something that you can't help but laugh at, [illegible] that you've never heard of. Enter 'oblique' and it gives 'communique' as an option; 'omelette' gives 'novelette' (nearly, but not quite) and 'harass' spews out 'trass'. What the hell is trass?

It has a valiant [illegible] with 'orange', the only unrhymable word in the English language (so they say), but only manages 'lozenge' or 'challenge'.

BSA says the program is aimed at lyric writers, poets and rappers. Unless you fit into one of these categories you're unlikely to find much use for *Rhyme King* (apart from [illegible] laugh or two) especially as it's £20.

BSA Dataware, 44 Hordern Road, Wolverhampton WV6 0HF.

Ed Ricketts

Ed Ricketts is a games reviewer on ST Format, *the essential magazine for all Atari ST owners.*

ARE YOU BORED OF YOUR KEYBOARD?

If you owned a Spectrum before your ST you may remember that some games (*Elite* for example) came with a keyboard overlay [illegible] cover up that horrible placemat-style exterior. Been yearning for overlays for the ST ever since upgrading? Step right this way...

An outfit called Silverbird Computing [illegible] producing just the product you're looking for. Its founder, Mel Noonan, was so frustrated by [illegible] the commands [illegible] had to remember when playing his flight sims he decided to set up a company specifically to produce overlays. They simply [illegible] over any ST keyboard and have spaces for you to write in the commands [illegible] each key.

I'm not entirely convinced of the value of these overlays. In the end, they serve the same purpose as having the manual open in front of you. Because the keymap [illegible] separate from the keys, instead [illegible] actually fitting around them, you still have to divert your attention from the keyboard to find the command you want.

The overlays are available [illegible] packs of five for £6 inclusive, from Silverbird Computing, 47 Barton Road, Beds LU5 6LG. ☎ 05255 2614.

• Can't find that vital key? Then read the flippin' manual. Or get one of these dead sexy new keyboard overlays and end up doodling all over it as you wait for *Flames of Freedom* to load

PC XT NOTEBOOK

- **BUILT-IN CGA DISPLAY**
- **WEIGHS ONLY 3¾lbs**
- **3 HOUR BATTERY LIFE**
- **1 YEAR ON-SITE WARRANTY**

SPECIFICATIONS

- 80C86 10MHz PROCESSOR
- BUILT-IN 3½" 1.44Mb DISK DRIVE
- 1Mb RAM
- SOFTWARE - RESIDENT: MS-DOS 3.3 IN ROM
- SOFTWARE - SUPPLIED: GW-BASIC 3.22, MICROSOFT WORKS 2.0
- REAL-TIME BATTERY BACKED CLOCK
- 80 KEYS - EMULATING 101/102 KEY ENHANCED KEYBOARD
- HIGH CONTRAST LCD CGA DISPLAY
- RESOLUTION 640x200 PIXELS
- SERIAL, PARALLEL & VIDEO PORTS
- LED INDICATORS FOR POWER, FLOPPY DISK & BATTERY LOW
- POWER - MAINS & BATTERY: 4 RECHARGEABLE NI-CAD CELLS. POWER MANAGEMENT GIVES APPROX 3 HOURS OPERATING TIME
- DIMENSIONS (WxDxH): 11"x8½"x1"
- WEIGHT 3¾lbs
- OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL RECHARGEABLE BATTERY PACKS

The super-compact Philips PCL 101 Notebook, takes up less surface area than an A4 page, weighs just 3¾lbs, is just over 1" thick, yet only costs £449+VAT. The PCL 101 is fast (10MHz CPU) with 1Mb RAM and a 1.44Mb, 3½" standard floppy disk drive.

The easy to read LCD CGA screen measures just 3½"x7½" and displays crisp, clear characters and sharp graphics at CGA resolution (640x200 pixels). The keyboard has 80 full size, full travel keys with 12 separate function keys, emulating a full-size industry standard keyboard.

Industry standard serial, parallel and external monitor ports, are all included. Power can be supplied from the mains via an auto-sensing, multi-voltage adaptor and charger or by a Ni-Cad battery pack that snaps flush into the main body case. With its sophisticated power management, the battery lasts for about 3 hours (and takes 4 hours to recharge). The PCL 101 offers automatic audio 'battery low' warnings, to help ensure that you never lose any valuable data.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- MS-DOS 3.3
- GW-Basic 3.22
- Microsoft Works 2.0
- PSU/Battery Charger
- Protective Pouch
- 1 Year On-Site Warranty

£449

REF: NBC 7101 +VAT = £527.58

286 + 386 PC AT NOTEBOOKS

- **BUILT-IN VGA DISPLAY**
- **20Mb HARD DRIVE**
- **6 HOUR BATTERY LIFE**
- **1Yr ON-SITE WARRANTY**
- **WINDOWS 3 + MOUSE**
- **TEXTURED CASING**

In stylish grey casing with a non-slip, textured finish and using the very latest technology, Commodore's 286-LT and 386sx-LT Notebooks are available from Silica at incredibly low prices.

Both models have a 20Mb hard disk, 1Mb RAM, expandable to 5Mb RAM using two 2Mb RAM cards, a 3½" 1.44Mb floppy disk drive and industry standard parallel and serial ports to allow connection to a wide range of printers, mice, modems and LAN adaptors.

Bright, backlit LCD screens display VGA graphics at 640x480 resolution, with a port to plug in a colour VGA monitor to show the graphics full potential.

These compact Notebooks weigh just over 5.9 lbs (7 lbs with battery) and measure 12¼"x10"x2". They can be powered from the mains, via the multi-voltage mains adaptor, or by their own batteries, which can be recharged while in use, or independently in approximately one hour. Commodore's Powersave feature increases battery life to up to 6 hours and, along with optional rechargeable battery packs, gives you continuous PC power on the move!

SPECIFICATIONS

SPECIFICATIONS	286	386
PROCESSOR	286	386sx
CLOCK SPEED	12MHz	16MHz
LANDMARK (MHz)	11.5	21
1Mb RAM EXPANDABLE TO 5Mb	●	●
2Mb RAM UPGRADE	£299	£299
20Mb 23ms HARD DISK DRIVE	●	●
VGA GRAPHICS - Res 640x480	●	●
3½" 1.44Mb FLOPPY DISK DRIVE	●	●
PARALLEL, SERIAL & VGA PORTS	●	●
UP TO 6 HOURS BATTERY LIFE	●	●
1 YEAR ON-SITE WARRANTY	●	●
WINDOWS 3.0 + MOUSE	●	●
MS-DOS 4.01 + GW-BASIC	●	●
80387sx CO PROCESSOR UPGRADE	--	£279

286 WITH 20Mb HDD

£999

+VAT = £1173.83

40Mb HARD DRIVE VERSION - £1199

386sx WITH 20Mb HDD

£1199

+VAT = £1408.83

40Mb HARD DRIVE VERSION - £1399

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- **THE FULL STOCK RANGE:** Your PC requirements from one supplier.
- **FREE CATALOGUES:** Will be mailed to you with offers and software/peripheral details.
- **PAYMENT:** By cash, cheque and all major credit cards.

Before you decide when to buy your new Notebook computer, we suggest you think very carefully about WHERE you buy it. Consider what it will be like a few months after buying your Notebook, when you may require additional peripherals or software, or help and advice with your new purchase. And, will the company you buy from contact you with details of new products? At Silica Systems, we ensure that you will have nothing to worry about. We have been established for over 12 years and, with our unrivalled experience and expertise, we can now claim to meet our customers requirements with an understanding which is second to none. But don't just take our word for it. Complete and return the coupon now for our latest FREE LITERATURE and begin to experience the "Silica Systems Service".

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Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9.30am-6.00pm Late Night: Thursday until 8pm Fax No: 071-323 4737

LONDON (SELFRIDGES): 1st Floor, 369 Oxford Street, London, W1A 1AB Tel: 071-629 1234
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PLEASE SEND FREE NOTEBOOK LITERATURE

Mr/Mrs/Ms: .... Initials: .... Surname: ....

Address: ....

....

....

Postcode: .... Tel: ....

Which computer(s), if any, do you own? 70A

E&OE - Advertised prices and specifications may change - please return the coupon for the latest information.

PC

- Will Amstrad's new 286 Games [illegible] be powerful or fast enough to run today's [illegible] games?
- Digital Integration's new swing wing flight sim
- Beta OS/2 2.0 set to emulate Windows
- Befuddled by fonts? Then you need *Fontmonger*

OS TWO TWO

IBM should, as you read this, have released a beta version of OS/2 2.0 that runs Windows applications in standard mode and includes the WorkPlace Shell. If the code [illegible] this latest release is without major bugs, sources believe the company may ship the final version by the end [illegible] the year.

However, other insiders contend that IBM will have to struggle to meet that deadline. Some users questioned whether IBM will have time to incorporate the APIs from Windows 3.1 by then, given that both programs are expected in roughly the same time frame.

[illegible] a user group meeting last week, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates said "We think [Windows binary compatibility on OS/2] will be a difficult challenge that IBM won't achieve."

FONT FIX

Baffled by the multitude of fonts and font formats? Ares Software may be your saviour. It plans to introduce a Windows utility that lets you convert files between major font formats.

Scheduled to ship in December, the $99.95 *FontMonger* converts between Adobe PostScript Type 1 and Type 3, Microsoft TrueType, Nimbus Q, Bitstream and Hewlett Packard Intellifont.

The program exports fonts in Encapsulated PostScript, Adobe Illustrator and Windows Metafile formats, allowing you to modify font outlines in a Windows graphics application, such as *CorelDRAW!* or *Illustrator*. You can also combine characters from multiple type families into a single font that can be accessed from the keyboard.

The program relies on algorithms to convert sophisticated 'hinted' fonts, such as Type 1 and TrueType.

"*FontMonger* doesn't map TrueType hints directly into Type 1 hints," said Ernie Brock, vice president [illegible] Ares Software. "It analyses the font and then generates the appropriate set [illegible] hints itself. It has a whole set of algorithms for finding out where the hints should be placed."
☎ Contact Ares Software on 0101 415 578 9090

WINDOW STEAMER

WordPerfect and Microsoft are stepping up the Windows word processor pace as both companies struggle [illegible] get their Windows products out of the door. Microsoft originally expected to ship *Word for Windows 2.0* by the end of the year, but the company now plans to ship [illegible] upgrade during October.

WordPerfect has repeatedly said that it plans to ship *WordPerfect for Windows* in October.

Winning the race [illegible] market won't mean much, according [illegible] analysts. "The major customers are going to wait to see both before standardising on either one," said Jeff Tarter, editor of *SoftLetter*, [illegible] Watertown, Massachusetts. Neither company, however, may make the October ship date, sources said.

WordPerfect posted a notice earlier this month on the CompuServe beta testers' forum saying it was postponing the release of the next beta. WordPerfect didn't give a date for the next release. According to sources, although the Microsoft upgrade looks good, it still needs more work and might not be ready until the end of the year.
☎ Contact Microsoft on 0734 500741.

V.1 ENGINE

WordStar for Windows 1.0 will resemble a page-layout program owing [illegible] its use [illegible] portions [illegible] NBI's *Legacy* word processing engine. The program employs a frame-based page layout techniques and includes precise typographical controls, table generatio tools and a variety of graphics too will also have Bitstream's Facelift rasteriser and 15 Bitstream fonts bui

Offering keystroke compatibility w *WordStar 6.0* and *WordStar 200* package also features a vertical pa sporting multiple text tools. You import more than 50 types of files w retain their formatting.

WordStar hopes [illegible] ship the pac within the next several weeks.
☎ Contact WordStar 081-643 8866

NEW IMAGE

Macros, image processing, docume management and networking capabilit have been added to *Legacy* in upgrade effort to lure users away from *Ami Pro 2.0*, *PageMaker* and *Vent Publisher*.

Legacy 2.0's macro editor enables you to automate document creation. You can open multiple macros simultaneously with the on-line debugger. The $495 software, which the company hopes ship in mid-November, will include [illegible] macros and [illegible] templates.

The image processing capabili which supports 256-colour and grey-scale images, lets you edit bit-mapped images. You can, for instance, resize an image without changing the proportions, crop and control features such as brightness and contrast. The upgrade also lets more than one user open the same file simultaneously. You receive a message that the file has been opened by more than one user, and only the first user's changes are saved in the original file. [illegible] other changes are saved elsewhere.

Other new features include floating frames that move only when the text to which they are anchored moves and [illegible] interactive grammar checker that checks changes as soon as they are made.
☎ Contact NBI on 0101 303 938 2628

WHEN A 286 CHIP JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

Having observed all the praise heaped on the new Amstrad PC5286 'games machine' by software houses and media alike I can keep quiet no longer.

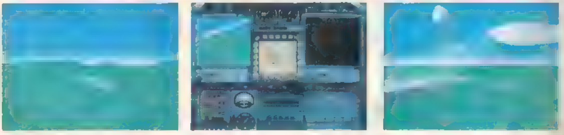
Come on guys! Although the idea is basically sound the inclusion of a 286 as the central processor is typical of the penny pinching attitude at Amstrad. Just how much cheaper is a 286 chip over half-decent 386 nowadays, eh? Not a hell of a lot, I'll tell you.

For the majority of the better game releases now appearing on the shop shelves a 386-spec machine is the *minimum* standard for comfortable gaming. *Wing Commander 2, Secret Weapons of the Luftwaffe, King's Quest 5* and *Falcon 3.0* are prime examples.

• The new Amstrad's PC5286 'games machine' – ready for the real world?

Laughably, the fact that US Gold's *Links* is being included in the pack will give the game away in a jiffy. *Links* plays relatively slowly on my 20Mhz 386. On Amstrad's paltry 16Mhz 286 it'll crawl. For God's sake Amstrad, take a look out the window once in a while, eh? That's where you'll find the real world!

'VISUALLY SPECTACULAR' FAST JET FLIGHT SIM



After [illegible] quiet period flight simulation aficionado Digital Integration [illegible] busily working on a new fast-jet sim based on the Tornado – one of the heroes of the Gulf War.

The game will pit the player against the Iraqis, featuring a variety of missions including a campaign. The structure [illegible] the campaign has yet to be decided but each mission will, reportedly, include realistic planning and attack modes. A mission's results will affect the next and interaction with ground forces will be included. Deception tactics may be added [illegible] the air and on the ground.

According to Digital Integration: "All [illegible] the buildings, structures and so on are from diagrams, plans and photographs ([illegible] hardened aircraft shelters). The emphasis in *Tornado* is on realism. You can fly down valleys and along rivers. There are railways, highways and so on.

"There are over 30 different aircraft including: Su-17 (Fitter), Mi-26 (Halo – large transport helicopter), Il-76 (Soviet AWACS) and Tu-160 (Blackjack). Enemy airfields have been taken from photographs of Iraqi installations."

DI is very confident about *Tornado*'s visuals: "Nothing approaches *Tornado* visually – and that includes *Falcon 3.0*. We've seen it recently and we see nothing [illegible] worry about with that product." *Tornado* is due out in early 1992.
☎ Contact Digital Integration on 0276 684959.

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SDL

DABBLING IN DTP

DTP on the ST has taken many revolutionary steps towards publishing perfection, but there are so many packages out there, how do you go about choosing one? Nial Grimes shows you what they do, how they do it and which one's best for you

Of all the industries affected by the arrival of the modern computer, the publishing industry has surely seen some of the most drastic changes. Work which would have at one time taken a whole team of typesetters days to complete can now be carried out by a handful of skilled computer operators in a matter of hours.

The release [illegible] computers such as the Atari ST, with its fast processor and excellent high resolution display means that anybody with the inclination can be involved in the DTP revolution. But with such a bewildering amount of packages on the market, all claiming to offer the ultimate in ST desktop publishing, what equipment do you need and what makes a good DTP package? More importantly, which package should you choose?

colour shade
forma
characte
colour
o

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS?

Any ST can be used as a desktop publishing machine, from the basic STFM [illegible] the TT. Packages such as *Timeworks DTP* will quite happily run on a standard 512K machine, although one megabyte of RAM is needed for all but the most basic tasks. [illegible] you plan on using *Calamus*, you will require a mono monitor and a minimum [illegible] one megabyte of RAM, rising to two or more if you are fortunate enough to own an Atari laser printer. Generally speaking, one megabyte of RAM should be looked upon as a minimum.

Acceptable results can be obtained from even the humblest dot matrix printer, but if your aim is anywhere near professional results, a laser or inkjet printer is a must. A good inkjet printer, capable [illegible] giving near laser quality results can now be bought for very little more than the price of a reasonable quality dot matrix.

Other equipment such as a hard disk can prove useful but one or two floppy drives, depending on which software package you intend to use, will usually suffice.

FEATURE PACKED?

A good question to ask yourself before buying any software package is what you are actually going to use it for, possibly writing down a list of your requirements. This is even more important as far as desktop publishing is concerned as there are so many features on offer: Full colour separation, text rotation, vector fonts – the list goes on. It is always worth remembering that features you will not use are not worth paying for. Similarly, stinting on features which you will need is a false economy.

WRITE ON TARGET

If your application is largely text based, the type of fonts used by the package will be of vital importance. There are currently two types of font system in use: 'bitmap' and 'vector'.

Bitmap fonts work by storing a bit image of every letter and point size needed for both screen and printer. Some packages have the ability to magnify smaller fonts to give two sizes for every bitmap. This produces the jagged edges, or 'jaggies', synonymous with the bitmap system. DTP packages such as *Timeworks DTP* use Atari's GDOS to produce bitmapped fonts.

The more modern 'vector' or outline fonts, rather than storing a bitmap, use a mathematical description of the characters. This means that fonts can be scaled to any size without loss of detail and can in many cases be rotated, bled and distorted [illegible] give some astounding effects. As only one description is needed for each letter, vector fonts use very little precious memory. Packages such as *Calamus* and *PageStream 2* use vector font technology to produce a stunning screen display and hard copy.

Most ST desktop publishers (and indeed all packages on review here) allow text to be edited within the program. However, if you are likely to be editing a large amount of text, a built-in text editor such as the one found in *Calamus* is a definite advantage, particularly when the screen update is slow.

PICTURE THIS

Being able to combine text with graphics is one of the main attractions of desktop publishing, so it is quite likely that the graphics capabilities of the various packages will play a big part in your decision. If you are planning on using graphics produced with an art package the question is whether they can be directly imported and, once imported, can they be edited? There is nothing more annoying than having to quit your desktop publisher to make a small change to some graphics.

[illegible]

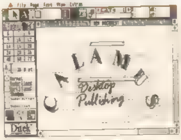
Calamus has long been considered to be the pinnacle of ST desktop publishing, boasting its own custom vector font system and a whole host of other features not seen on the ST prior to its release.

Rather than relying on GEM menu's, *Calamus* uses a complex set of icons to accomplish most operations. This has the disadvantage of taking a while to learn but, once learnt, it is doubtful whether you will find yourself asking 'If only I could...'.

Calamus places emphasis firmly on effects. If complex layout is a stipulation, you will not find a better package. Text can be rotated to any angle with an accuracy of a tenth of a degree, shadowed or even given a raster percentage to produce shading.

For straightforward text a 'piping chain' idea is used and while complex, you cannot help thinking that for plain text the same task could be accomplished by *Timeworks* in half the time. Screen update is reasonably fast, but for speedy manipulation a built-in text editor is provided which can 'suck' text out of a frame to be edited at any time.

Everybody likes a quick result from their efforts and it is in this area that *Calamus* excels. A full page of text and graphics can, in most cases, be printed in under a minute on a suitable laser or inkjet printer. It makes a change to see speed limited by the printer instead of the snail's pace we have come to expect from GDOS.



• *Calamus uses a complex set of icons to accomplish most of its operations*

Lack of PostScript support is not the deficiency it may seem at first, as *Calamus* can produce results similar to those you would expect from Postscript on practically any laser printer.

Although often criticised for its complicated user interface *Calamus* remains a very usable system. Complicated it may be, underpowered it is not.

FOR
- ▲ **Vector fonts**
- ▲ **Lightning print speed**
- ▲ **Advanced effects such as shadowing and rotation**

AGAINST
- ▼ **Price**
- ▼ **Memory intensive**
- ▼ **Confusing at first**

COST £225
VALUE: Good

PRODUCT: Timeworks DTP COMPATIBILITY: ST FROM: Electric Distribution CONTACT: 0480 496666

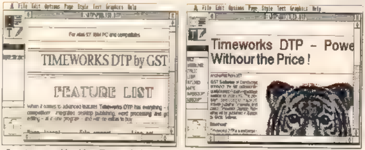
When it was released just over three years ago, *Timeworks DTP* was considered to be somewhat of a revolution. Costing just £99 it was the first truly affordable DTP package, having more than a passing resemblance to the industry standard *Ventura Publisher*.

Timeworks ST is ported from the PC version, meaning it sticks rigidly to the GEM environment and uses GDOS to provide on-screen and printer fonts, the main disadvantage of using GDOS being the speed at which it operates.

Using a style tagging system, *Timeworks* is one of the best systems for handling large amounts of text at any price. Anything from a paragraph to a whole book can be given its own style name and details. Piping text from frame to frame is simplicity itself making *Timeworks* ideal for catalogues, price lists, manuals and other text based applications.

Graphics capabilities are not quite up to the standard of text handling. While an ample range of drawing and editing tools are available, the system fails to perform when it comes to printing, often missing out graphics when several pictures are contained on one page. To be fair this problem only occurs under certain circumstances, but if your application is graphical you might be well advised to look elsewhere.

A good range of graphics and text import facilities are provided, covering the standard *First Word Plus*, *Word Writer*, *GEM Paint* (IMG) and *Gem Draw* (GEM) as well as other packages more familiar to PC owners such as *Word Perfect* & *PC Paintbrush*.


File Edit Options Page Style Text Graphics Help
File Edit Options Page Style Text Graphics Help

For Atari ST IBM PC and compatibles

TIMEWORKS DTP by GST

FEATURE LIST

Timeworks DTP – Powe
Withour the Price !

• Easy to use and intuitive, *Timeworks* is a good option for the newcomer to desktop publishing

Timeworks is probably the best option for the newcomer to desktop publishing as it is very easy to use and intuitive.

Despite its simplicity *Timeworks DTP* is not a toy; there is at least one semi-professional magazine being produced in the UK using a combination of a Mega ST, Hewlett Packard DeskJet and *Timeworks DTP*!

FOR
- ▲ **Price**
- ▲ **Excellent text handling**
- ▲ **Postscript support**

AGAINST
- ▼ **GDOS means 'jaggies'**
- ▼ **Some printing glitches**

COST £99.95 VALUE: Super

LOOKING GOOD

Probably the most important feature of any DTP package is its user interface. All packages on review use the GEM system to varying degrees. *Timeworks* relies on simplicity as its strength while *Calamus* provides an icon for every feature you are ever likely ■ use and many more besides.

In a way, the decision will depend on which DTP packages you have used before. Those weaned on frame based packages such as *Ventura* might prefer the *Calamus* frame system, finding *PageStream*'s point and click interface annoying, and vice versa.

If your local computer shop is not able to give you a demonstration, the public domain is filled with demo versions of commercial packages, including at least two of the those on review here. These provide an excellent way to ascertain whether a package suits your needs and are usually available directly from software houses or from most reputable PD libraries.

PERFECT PUBLISHER

■ ■ Impossible to pinhole any package as the ideal desktop publisher. The best desktop publisher is one that suits your needs, however most packages aim at a particular market and certain guidelines can be given.

THE HOME USER

If your aspirations go no further than the parish newsletter *Timeworks DTP* will provide the ideal solution running on any ST and producing good results. The simplicity is second to none and even those new ■ the whole concept of DTP should have no problems.

THE SEMI-PROFESSIONAL

PageStream 2 offers a huge range of features for a relatively low price and will probably handle any application you are prepared to throw at it. Once again *Timeworks* makes a strong bid if your application is very text oriented, but given the choice *PageStream 2* is a far more flexible system.

THE PROFESSIONAL

Up until recently the professional arena was more or less sewn up by *Calamus*. The release of *PageStream 2* offering colour separation, PostScript support and a host of other features has blurred this definition somewhat.

If colour is needed there is only one choice – *PageStream 2*. Both are capable of producing excellent results and will handle even the most demanding applications. ■

INTO PRINT

No printer ? – You needn't feel left out. There are literally hundreds of bureaux just dying to turn your ST format files into printed masterpieces. These range from high street shops capable of giving you acceptable, laser quality results to typesetting outfits which can offer a professional 1200dpi copy (similar in quality to the page you are reading now!)

Recommended contacts:
Signa Publishing Systems Ltd.
☎ 0252 370066
Files accepted: Calamus (registered users only)
Quality: 1200dpi.

The ST Club
☎ 0602 410241
File Accepted: PageStream, Fleet Street 3, Publishing Partner and Timeworks DTP.
Quality: Laser 300dpi.

PRODUCT: PageStream 2 COMPATIBILITY: ST FROM: Silica Systems CONTACT: 081-309 1111

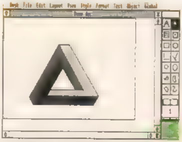
PageStream has had a rather turbulent history; early versions while being well specified were plagued by bugs. Later versions cured most of these and *PageStream* has developed a good reputation for itself as a solid entry level desktop publisher.

Version 2 is now upon us and claims to offer not only huge improvements over *PageStream 1* but also over Macintosh DTP packages! Certainly, a look at the specification list will put paid to any theories that the ST is underpowered as a desktop publishing machine, but can it live up the the claims?

One of the main improvements is in font handling. *PageStream 1* used vector fonts for printed output but the screen display could hardly be described as inspirational. Version 2 cures this and outline fonts are now displayed on screen to give true representations of the characters as they will appear in print.

No longer is finding professional quality fonts a problem as *PageStream 2* will quite happily import both PostScript and Compugraphic fonts, as well as it's own unique outline format. Ten fonts including the standard Times & Helvetica are supplied as standard.

Graphics handling is exceptional: not only can graphics be edited within the program but *PageStream 2* supports just about every format ever produced for the ST and many more besides. Not only can these graphics be imported but can, with a suitable printer, be colour separated to give a full colour copy!



• *PageStream 2 claims to offer not only huge improvements to PageStream 1, but also over Macintosh DTP packages!*

PageStream 2 is an excellent package and puts behind it any problems previous releases may have had. Output looks great on any printer from dot matrix to laser and in the words of the advert, will not leave you wondering "where's the MAC ?".

FOR
- ▲ **Colour support**
- ▲ **Outline fonts**
- ▲ **Excellent import facilities**

AGAINST
- ▼ **Sluggish at times**

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D126) Disney Slideshow
D128) Sleeping Bag Demo
D130) System 5 Demo
D132) Alpha Flight Megademo [illegible]
D134) Share And Enjoy 46
D136) Thames TV Demo
D138) Vision Megademo
D140) Fast Cars Slideshow
D142) Mobed
D145) Kefrens Wall Demo
D147) Beast 2 Preview
D149) Treacl
D151) Share and Enjoy 47
D153) Simpsons Mini Mega (XXX)
D155) Glass World Animation
D157) Congaman Animation
D160) Anarchy Scratch Pack 39
D162) Bugs Bunny Anim*
D164) Smurf +Cokeman Anims*
D166) Juggette Animation

UTILITIES

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U004) Visicalc Spreadsheet
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U008) Sidney And Friends
U011) XLS Disk 1
U013) Clip Art
U015) The Magicians Utilities
U017) Steel Moon Utilities
U019) CADV
U021) Super C Disk
U024) Red Devil Utils 4
U026) Amibase V3.76
U031) Bootbench
U033) C-Light 1+2
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U053) Text Plus Wordprocessor
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U058) Running Man Update
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THE PD COLUMN

[illegible] software around' – James Leach takes a pick from the PD grapevine and brings you the juicy news

If you like watching demos on your ST, but can't be bothered to wait for the disk to finish reading all the data, it's now possible to buy the best demos on video. PPD Public Domain has a range of what it considers to be the best ST demos on a *Videmo*. It comes on VHS format, and all the demos fit neatly on to one cassette. This costs £5, but PPD will happily make up an individually tailored video cassette for a little extra charge.

Alternatively you can buy a ***Videmo*** separately on floppy disk for £2 each. If you've got a decent monitor, I imagine that running the actual demos will always be preferable to watching a video of them, but it's nice to know that if your ST goes wrong you can still get your sound and graphics fix via your telly.

POS : SURGERY
AMAGE REPORT: NONE

• Once again *The Disk* is a veritable Aladdin's cave of Amiga programs

IS IT A DISK-RACE?

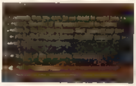
Another issue of ***The Disk*** from Stephen Lord has magically appeared in the PD Column office. ***The Disk*** is a magazine-on floppy for the Amiga, and it's now up to issue 5. Stephen seems to be cramming more and more on to each successive issue.

One instantly noticeable feature about the text files on ***The Disk*** is that they're in a new easy-to-read format. This is done by a useful little program called ***sMovie*** which will display ASCII files in this large and easy-to-read font (and you can choose any font, size or colour, so it's flexible in the extreme). All the tips, hints and stories on ***The Disk*** are viewed using ***sMovie*** and it works brilliantly, and gives ***The Disk*** a unique style as well.

Also on ***The Disk*** is a demo called ***Drakpak 24***. It's a cyberpunk-style wander around a deserted installation somewhere in space and is very enjoyable if you're into the genre. Music in a separate file on ***The Disk*** is provided by the increasingly famous Daniel Rigby. It takes the form of a couple of Jean Michel Jarre tunes (everybody seems to use Jean Michel Jarre! I'll award a prize to the first person to send in a good version of an Ice T track), and the quality is better than much of the music you hear on other demos.

You'll also find a file of ***New C commands***, so if you want to make rainbows on your Workbench or add stars to your CLI then you'll find all you need here. There is a whole set of commands to add to your C directory.

Also included is a comprehensive review of ***Electro CAD***, a neat Workbench clock, a concise and pretty unbiased look at what's happening in the PD world, a section of humorous stories (not necessarily computer related) and a program called ***Record*** which, once activated, keeps a track of all your mouse and keyboard activity, stores it in a file and lets you play it back, giving the impression that your Amiga is either possessed or being operated by the invisible man. Great for scaring the elderly and breaking the ice at parties.



• It's flexible, it's easy to read and it's all on *The Disk*

Issue 5 of ***The Disk*** is great value at £1.50. It's easy to use, there is a lot crammed on to it and it isn't too technical, so everybody from beginners upwards can use it.

WIN THE POOLS!

Something I've not seen in PD before is a Pools-beating program. Adam Squibb of Gosport in Hampshire has written one for the ST. It's called ***Formfinder v1.0*** and, put quite simply, tells you which horse is likely to win a race. Of course, you must first input all the horses, their previous records and when they last ran, then you stick in the odds (as printed in any paper) and the computer churns out who it thinks will win.

Even though I don't know much about horse racing, I found ***Formfinder*** easy to use and indeed won over £8 million with it and bought myself a Testarossa. Actually I haven't managed to verify the degree of accuracy of the program, but as it's shareware, you can't really go wrong.

The PD version doesn't contain facilities for printing, loading and saving data, and it only allows a maximum of 10 runners per race. All the calculations it makes are, however, as accurate as it can be. If you'd like the full ***Formfinder*** program with all the above features you must register with Mr Squibb (a process which costs £10). This gets you a later version (up to v1.5) and full written documentation (even though the README.DOC that comes with the shareware version seems pretty comprehensive to me!).

THE FOOD OF LOVE

Amiganuts, no stranger to the Column, has sent in a ***JPM Sound Music Disk*** (for the Amiga, naturally). Included on it are versions (and very good ones too) of Lessons In Love, Guaranteed, Amiganuts Power (a bit customised, that one) and the perenially popular Things That Make You Go Hmmm.

Also available from Amiganuts is a pair of eight-channel music disks. These are packed with loads of tunes, and more than make up for in variety what they lack in graphics and quality.

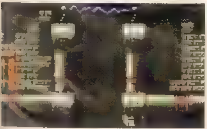
Mentioned before, but updated, is ***AmiBase Professional***. This database is actually licenceware, costing £10. It's a lot, but the program is comparable to those you'd find costing four times as

* * *

CARING AND BARING

The good news for ST demo fans is that the vying for supremacy is still going on. All the one-upmanship (see PD Columns passim) means, of course, that the user ends up with demos which are often better than he or she would have believed possible.

After The Lost Boys did their *Ooh Crikey What A Scorcher* megademo (my all-time favourite), The Care Bears (not totally English, as I previously stated, but predominantly Swedish) have returned to the fray with *The Cuddly Megademo*. It follows a similar format to *Ooh Crikey*, in that you must steer a spaceman-type character around a big scrolling screen to land him on platforms where he can access each demo. Instead of whizzing star-fields, The Care Bears have gone for very large sprites. One demo features a sprite approximately a third the size of the screen wobbling around. Very impressive, lads, but why don't you stick it into a a best-selling game format?



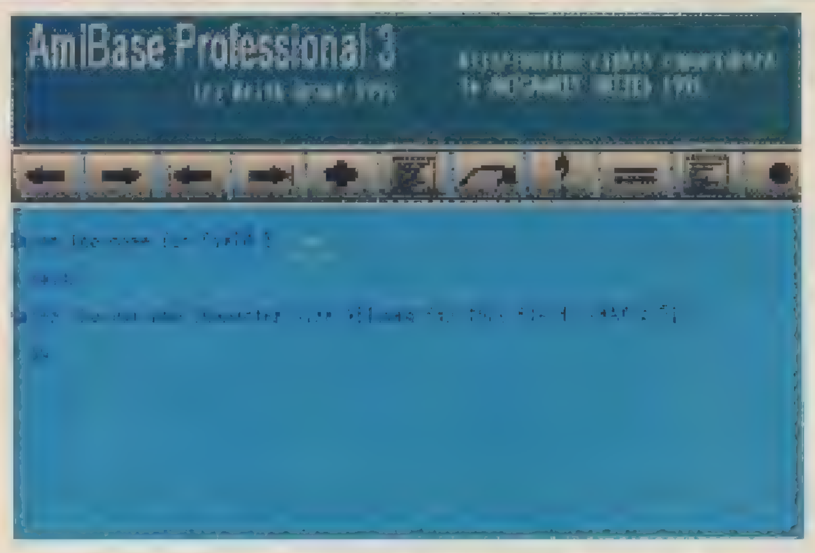
• The *Overdrive megademo* will make your ST go weak at the knees

PLEASE WAIT
WHILE LOADING
THE
MAIN MENU
SECTORS TO GO
110

• ST demos don't come any cuddlier than this, thanks to the Swedish Care Bears

Another piece of coding is vying for the title of 'Best Demo'. It's from The Phalanx, and is called the *Overdrive Megademo*. The graphics are pretty, but the sound is really rather exceptional. There's a great demonstration version of the new *Sync Soundtracker*, which makes it well worth getting hold of if you're into ST sounds.

Both these demos are available from the State 808 Public Domain Library. It deals mainly with demos, and has strong contacts with all the major coding crews, so if you're looking for the cutting edge, get in touch with State 808 PDL.



• **Got lots of data to store? *Amibase Pro III* could be your saviour**

much in the shops. ***Amibase III*** is on two disks and contains a utility which will happily convert all previous ***Amibase*** documents and files to work on the new version. Disk B also has full instructions and examples, so the lack of a big manual isn't really a problem. What remains to be seen is whether something costing £10 and distributed through PD libraries will actually sell in significant numbers.

Amibase joins ***OctaMed version 2***, another program which is distributed by Amiganuts at a price between full and budget. ***OctaMed*** costs £20.

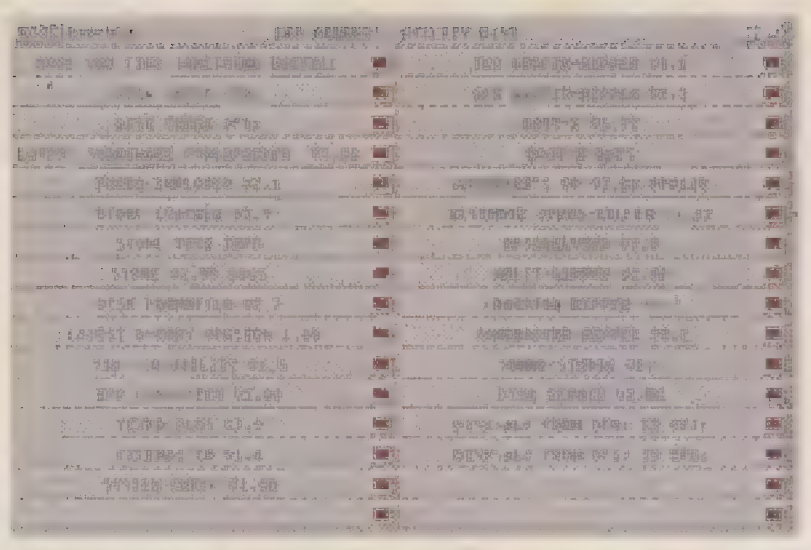
CODE AND LONELY

ACC is the Amiga Coders Club. This organisation periodically puts out a disk packed with goodies for both the beginner and the experienced coder. ***ACC 16*** is available from Amiganuts now as another piece of licenceware. It costs £3 until January when the price goes up to £4 and has many examples of neat code which you can adapt or rewrite to do anything from widening the useable screen to its limits to changing the colours and mixing with lightning speed. It isn't for beginners, though, so be warned.

And finally from Amiganuts comes a disk filled with Amiga utilities. It's called ***Eko-Ranger***, it's shareware this time and it has utilities which allow you to examine your disks, fiddle with graphics, convert IFF files, look after your files, check your entire system and repair disks. There is a whole lot more, including the valuable ***Universal Virus Killer***. If you're serious about your Amiga computing, then contact Amiganuts for this disk. It's excellent value and you won't regret it.

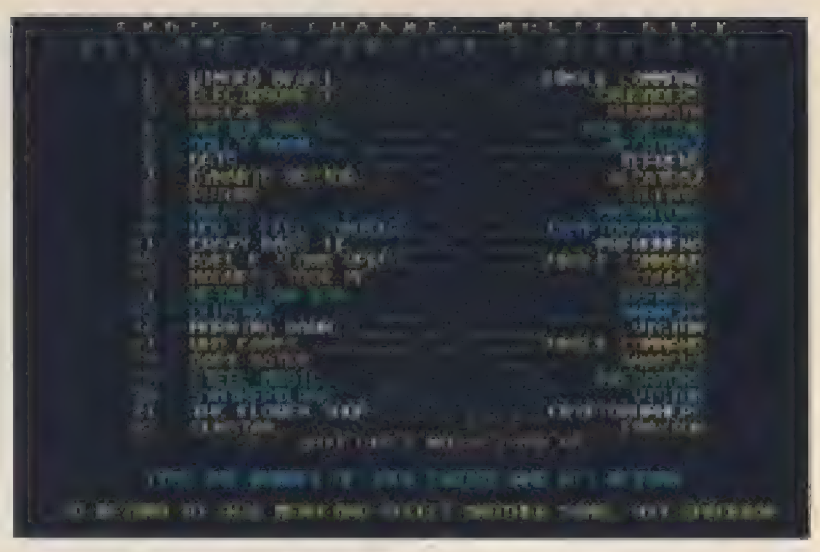
PICTURE THIS...

Picture Puzzle from Advantage PD is a PC implementation of those little plastic puzzles that you give to small children to keep them quiet on long car journeys. You have to slide round blocks, on a grid until you make up an image (there's no box to consult if you're not sure what the image should actually look like when it's finished, but a small display can be called up which does give you an idea of the completed scene).



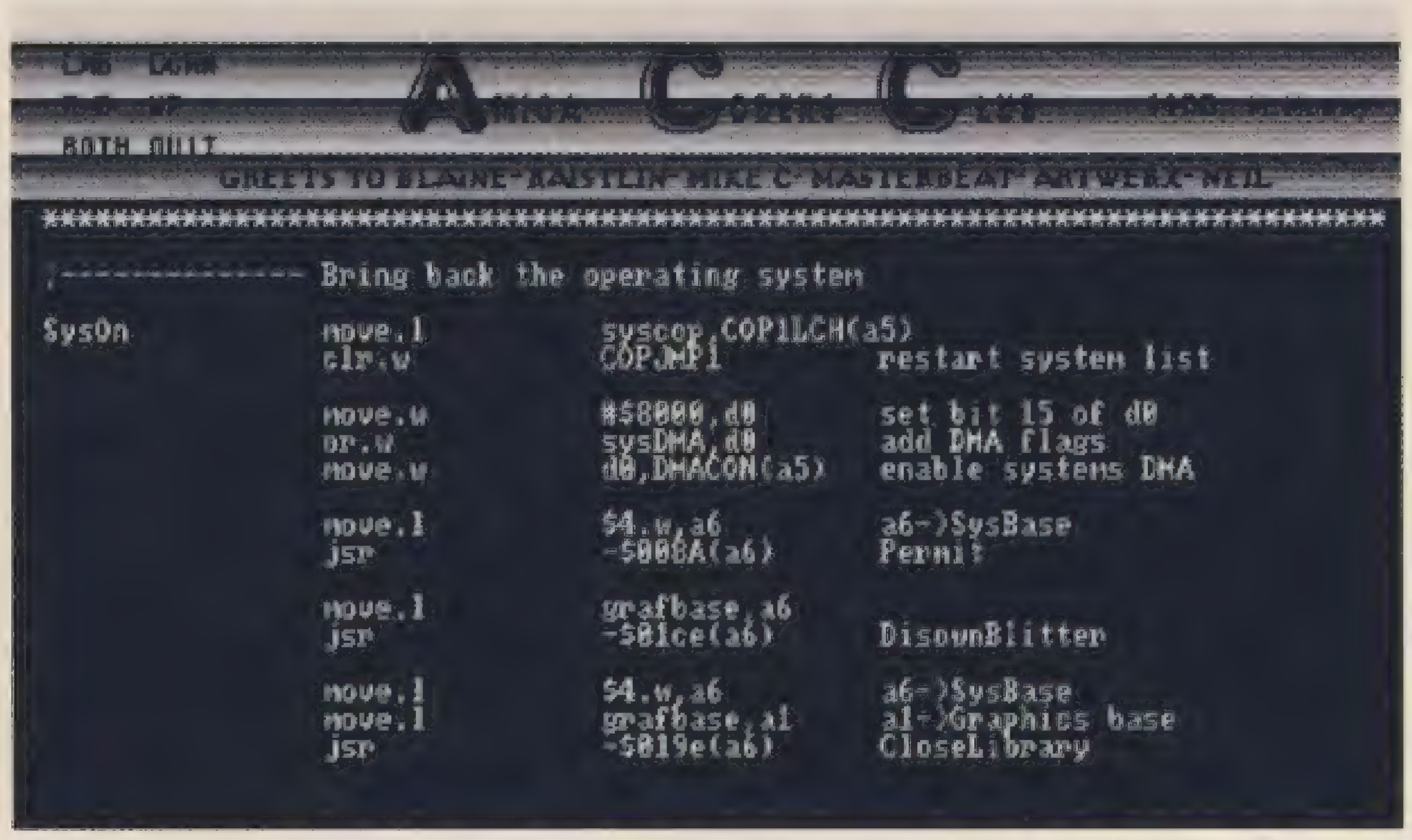
• **Eko Util has more utilities than mortal beings rightly deserve**

Instead of using an empty square to shift the blocks into (like the plastic puzzles) you can only swap two adjacent squares. This makes it both easier and harder. You still have to shuffle every piece right round the grid in order to get two vital tiles next to each other.



• **Eko's music disk hath charms to soothe the savage beast, probably**

There are loads of options available. You can set the size of the grid of squares from two by two (a tad easy, this one) right up to hundreds (somewhat impossible). All you need is a PC which can support colour graphics and a mouse. Unfortunately the cursor keys won't work with ***Picture Puzzle***.



```
BOTH QUIT
GREETS TO BLAINE-RAISTLIN-MIKE C-MASTERBEAT-ARTWERX-NEIL
*****************************************************************************

;---------------- Bring back the operating system

SysOn           move.l          syscop,COP1LCH(a5)
                clr.w           COPJMP1             restart system list

                move.w          #$8000,d0           set bit 15 of d0
                or.w            sysDMA,d0           add DMA flags
                move.w          d0,DMACON(a5)       enable systems DMA

                move.l          $4.w,a6             a6->SysBase
                jsr             -$008A(a6)          Permit

                move.l          grafbase,a6
                jsr             -$01ce(a6)          DisownBlitter

                move.l          $4.w,a6             a6->SysBase
                move.l          grafbase,a1         a1->Graphics base
                jsr             -$019e(a6)          CloseLibrary
```

• **Hardened Amiga coders can wallow in ACC 16 if they so desire**

YOU'RE WANTED!

So you've got a Public Domain Library? You've got lots of programs? You're getting a good reputation? Fine, but if all your competitors are getting reviewed in *James Leach's PD Column*, shouldn't you be as well?

Send in all your Public Domain shareware, freeware or licenceware and you'll get into the spotlight and into the PD Libraries A-Z. All your competitors are.

PD LIBRARIES A-Z

You've read the column, so now you want to know where you can get hold of the software. That's where the *Express* PD library listing steps in...

8-BIT PUBLIC DOMAIN – Spectrum, BBC, Amstrad CPC and ZX81 public domain software. Stamp and 10p for list.: 1 Northolme Cl, Grays. Essex, RM16 2NX.
17-BIT SOFTWARE – PO Box 97, Wakefield, West Yorks WF1 1XX. Tel: 0924 366982.
ADES PD LIBRARY – All PD is less than £1. Some free. SAE for great details. Address 15 Deanes Close Dovercourt Essex C012 4SH.
ADPD – For the cheapest Amiga PD around, some even free. Send SAE for details or disk for lists. 15 Deanes Close, Dovercourt, Essex CO12 4JH.
ADVANTAGE – 54 Bath Road, Cheltenham. GL53 7HJ. Tel: 0242 224340.
AERIAL SHAREWARE - IBM PC compatibles. Catalogue on a disc (free, state size). 7 Valehead, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 9AY[5]
AKORE SHAREWARE – 7 Fishergate Point, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham NG1 1GD. Tel: 0800 252221.
ALDRO AMIGA PD SWAP CLUB SAE and blank disk for details. Lists growing every day. Send to: 24 Water Meadow. Quepgeley, Gloucester GL2 6XR[4]
ALPHA PD - Amiga PD, monthly update of cat disc, £1 per disc. 22 Ceylon Place, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3JF. Tel: 0323 26790[5]
AMAZING AMIGA PD - Over 500 disks, simply send extra blanks to cover costs + SAE for list to D Hopkins, 70 High St, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9AH[6]
AMIGA ANSWERS – Integrated programmers PD library and problem solving service £1.50 for cat and programmers utility disk. 11 Mill Hill Rd. Norwich.
AMIGA GOLD - Good quality PD at favourable prices. Write: 6 Churcher Cl, Gosport, Hants PO12 2SL[5]
AMIGA NON-RIP OFF PD – For good Demos send disks+ postage to Mark, 50 Victoria Ave, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7LN.
AMIGA PD BREAKTHROUGH – You've tried the rest, now try the best! PD from 18p per disk. Swift dispatch of all orders. Contact Darryl, 12 Kent Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HFDS HR9 5AQ, NOW!!
AMIGA PD - 2 megs free PD. we are giving away free Amiga PD, send a 2nd class stamp for the info-pack to: 16 Hermisto, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tybe and Wear NE25 9AN
AMIGANUTS UNITED – 169 Dale Valley Rd, Hollybrook, Southampton SO1 6QX.
AMIGA SOFTWARE EXCHANGE - Small and friendly gmaes group, adventures, sims and arcade, SAE for info to 13 Bournville Lane, Birmingham B30 2JY[6]
AMOS PD – 0942 495261.
ANDRIKKOS PC LIBRARY – PC Megapack: 14Mb compacted Shareware, £16 . Cheque/PO or SAE for list : Andy Kyriacou, 17 Parkhurst Rd. London N22 4JQ.
ANGLO AMERICAN SHAREWARE – £1 a disk. Over 2.000Mb of top Anglo-American titles. Send two first class stamps for menu driven catalogue disk to 37 Deven Place, Newport, Gwent. Tel 0633 259847.
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ARCH PD – 200+ disks of Archimedes PD. Send £1 or SAE and disk to Arch, PO 109. Ferry Rd, Hullbridge, Essex, S55 6EL.
ARROW PD formerly Scotsoft – ST PD. Send an SAE and blank disk or £1 to 6 Kent Orchard, Perry Street, South Chard, Somerset TA20 2QB.
ASGARD PD - New programme (Amos) 'The Ceat Machine' - build your own Cugat library £1.50: 20 Langdale Drive, Flanshaw. Wakefield WF2 9EW Tel: 0924 361101[5]
ATARI ST DEMO SPECIALIST – Range of POV , megademos,singles, music modules. slideshows, uilities. £1 for catalogue disk. Unit 1, Johnson's Shopping Centre, 29/31 Bond St, Blackpool FY4 1QB.[3]
BASOFT PD – Original PD plus the best of the rest. SAE to BASOFT, 357 Church Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 2EV. £1 per disk. New disk catalogue in exchange for blank disk.
BATTLEAXE PD - Amiga only, £1 a disk and digitising service, 80p for cat with free samples: 25 Kingswood, Thorpe Marriot. Norwich NR8 6UN . Tel: 0603 261060[6]
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BROADSWORD PUBLIC DOMAIN – Atari ST PD. 70p per disk. Send disk plus SAE to Flat 4, Moreton Court, 212 Dover Road. Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7NB. Over 350 disks.[2]
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BYTEBACK – 6 Mumby Close, Newark, Notts NG24 1JE. Tel: 0636 79097
BYTES - Amiga PD software, over 1000 disks, call now for cat: 295 Peniel Green Road, Llanamlet, Swansea, SA7 9BJ. Tel: 0792 772745
C˜S PD LIBRARY Sam Coupe PD Software. Send SAE and disk (or 80p) for disk catalogue to: CMS PDL, Donald Drive, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex[4]
CALEDONIA PDL – 250 Oldtown Rd, Hilton, Inverness IV2 4PT. Tel: 0463 225736.
CAPRICORN COMPUTERS – 35 Warwick Rd, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7HS.
CHEZRON SOFTWARE – 605 Loughborough Rd, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ.
CHRISTIAN COMPUTER CONCEPTS – Christian PD/shareware. 5.25-inch. Ian Hurst, 7 Perrybrook Walk, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8TR.
CIRCULAR PD LIBRARY – 14 Morrison Drive, Lennoxtown, Glasgow G65 7BA
COLONIA PDL – PD swap shop! Amiga and ST. Over 350 titles. One for one. Swap free. For list write to 4 Eastfield Street. Lincoln LN2 5ES.[2]
CRAZY DIAMOND PD – For the ST. Send SAE and blank disk for catalogue and free PD to 58 Hillside Rd, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6SA.[2]
CRAZY JOE'S -·Amiga PD. catalogue disk 50p. Tel: 0709 829286[5]
DATA PD – For Amigas and Amstrad CPCs. For disk-based catalogue and sample programs send £1 (Amiga) or £2.50 (CPC). Cheques/POs to T Kingsmill, 202 Park St Lane, Park St, St Albans, Herts AL2 2AQ.[3]
DELTA C64/128 PUBLIC DOMAIN –SAE: Delta PD, 39 Station Rd, Claydon, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 OHS.[2]
DELUXE AMIGA – Exclusive review of Terminator 2 in issue 1. Send a £1 cheque/PO to Antony Grace, 2, Furzefield Crescent, Reigate, Surrey RHZ 7HQ.
DISCOVERY PD – Coming soon. For Atari ST. Wide selection and excellent after sales help. Disks £1-1.50. Disk catalogue 50p. Write to J Thoroughgood, 114 Sandringham Way, Frimley, Surrey GU76 [2]
DIGITAL APPLICATIONS - have changed their name to Essex Computer Systems, 118 Middle Crockerford, Basildon, Essex SS16 4JAGENERAL AMIGA - A comprehensive Amiga PD Library. All disks. Only £1. Monthly catalogue/magazine £1.50. Cheque or P.O. General Amiga, 19 Earn Court, Alloa. FK10 1PT4
THE DISK – Stephen Lord, 6 Stubbington Brink, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6LR.
DRAGON PD – Programmers wanted for Amstrad, CPC 6128 PD library. For more info, write to: Dragon Road, 415 (flat) Whitehall Road, Bristol, BS5 73P.
DSD SOFTWARE -ST users interested in art, graphics, poictures? then contact the PD library that specilises in them: 5 Leinster St, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1ER.
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EUROPA PD - ST PD All disks D?S from 75p, send blank disk or £1 cheque/PO to 1 Hindmans Rd, East Dulwich, London SE22 [6]
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EAST MIDLAND PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – 54 Watnall Road, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 7LE.
ED's FREE PDL – Public Domain for the Atari ST. Send your list for mine, 1-4-1 basis. EJ Carter, 184 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7LY.
EDLIB – Interactive, educational and productivity compilations of PD for Amiga. £1.50. All regular PD only 89p. Graphics Master 1 + 2, graphic image manipulation PD software: £3. Contact Edlib, Scotland Farm, Stockwood Rd, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5LU.
ELMSOFT – PO Box 17, Loughton, Essex IG10 2EE.
ESSEX SHAREWARE LIBRARY – Beginners pack of the best of PC Shareware. Ten disks £14.99. Cheques/PO to Essex Shareware, 221 Branksome Avenue, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex.
FORMFINDER - (ST) from Adam Squibb 11 Beaulieu Place, Peel Common, Gosport, Hampshire, PO13 0QP[6]
FORTISS PD – Amiga PD. Watch the magazines for our advert or send £1 for catalogue disk to Fortiss PD, PO Box 2, Earl, Shilton, Leicester LE9 8LU.[7]
FREAKS PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – Disks filled from a huge range. Ribbons re-inked, recycled packaging, send stamp for catalogue to Freaks, 29 Leap Valley Crescent, Downend, Bristol BS16 6TQ.
FREEWAY PD – For the Amiga. Loads of titles for only 99p including p&p. Send disk for list. Freeway PD, 11 Elizabeth Place. Somting, Sussex BN15 9U3.
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Games Week

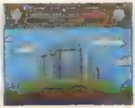
Outgoing, outspoken, but never outclassed, Stuart Campbell's reviews, tips and news tell you what's best for you and your machine

STAR RATINGS

= Sean Connery
= Roger Moore
= David Niven
= George Lazenby
= Timothy Dalton

DIZZY IN MY HEAD

Just in case you're not completely sick of hearing about Code Masters' little egg hero Dizzy, here's one last little snippet



• Dizzy tries desperately to avoid hippy convoys in *Magicland*

On top of this Christmas' coming compilation the Codies finally release the hugely popular fourth adventure of the ovoid chap, *Magicland Dizzy*, on 16-bit formats in a couple of weeks' time.

The cartoon-graphics-and-puzzle-solving style is exactly the same as before, but this effort is the most accomplished of the lot. If you take the proper charts as your yardstick (ie all prices together), then *this* is my top bet for the Christmas No 1.

NO, REALLY...

Honestly, Empire's conversion of the Taito coin-op follow-up to *Qix*, *Volfied*, is just about finished now, seriously.

Empire's programmers have been literally taking the arcade machine to pieces in order to dissect every last bit of information out of it, in an attempt at the truly definitive coin-op port.

Early impressions suggest that they might just have managed it, too, but keep watching this space for monthly updates until the game finally hits the streets in time for Boxing Day (well, probably).

TOP 10

1	*J White's W'wind Snooker*	Virgin	ST AG
7	*Silent Service 2*	Microprose	AG OT
2	*Man United Europe*	Krisalis	SP CO AM ST AG OT
4	*Rainbow Collection*	Ocean	SP CO AM ST AG
5	*Rodland*	Storm	SP CO AM ST AG
3	*Thunderhawk*	Core Design	ST AG
RE	*Flames of Freedom*	Rainbird	ST AG
9	*Cruise for a Corpse*	US Gold	AG
6	*Dizzy Collection*	CodeMasters	SP CO AM
RE	*Speed Ball 2*	Mirrorsoft	CO ST AG OT

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum CO = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad OT = Other
Chart compiled by Gallup. European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

THE MOMENTARY RETURN OF... HERE IT COMES AGAIN!

This week: Games Which Don't Have Any Connecting Factor At All!

The budget scene is as lively as it ever was in the run-up to the Christmas boom, and this month has seen the rebirth of two all-time classics from the Hit Squad.

• Shooting Yourself In The Foot Lesson One - put out a Batman sub-game better than Chase HQ

Bubble Bobble (****), the predecessor of *Rainbow Islands*, is possibly the best two-player arcade game ever, and on all formats the micro conversion is excellent, although without a lot of the coin-op's secret bonuses and so on. The Amiga and C64 versions are particularly worthy of note (the Speccy version suffers from a lack of music, which is pretty inexcusable on the 128K machine but there you go), but on every format this is a truly great game. The only problem with it is that the one-player game is a bit lacking, but at this price, no-one should let it stop them from owning a copy of this superb game.

Also from the Hit Squad comes *Batman – The Movie* (***), which was Ocean's third (I think) attempt at a game featuring the caped crusader. It was also the first in what became a long line of formulaic movie licence games made up of small sub-sections relating to various parts of the film, but if you can forget for a moment that this is the game whose success is responsible for *Nightbreed*, *Total Recall*, *Darkman* and *Terminator 2*, then you'll find a conversion here that's really pretty spiffing.

The platform sections were designed with a little more thought than you tend to see these days, and the driving sub-games are more than a match for many dedicated racing jobs, and generally it captures the movie's atmosphere admirably.

The label lets itself down somewhat with this month's other release, *Dragon Ninja* (*). It's a copy of the coin-op which (on 16-bit versions) looks remarkably close to the real thing, but the programmers have somehow forgotten to include the 'jump' feature which makes things tricky to say the least.

The ST version also suffers from incredible slowness, and while the 8-bit ports are a touch more playable, they look awful. Even if you're the world's biggest Ninja fan (or indeed the world's biggest dragon fan), don't bother with this one. (All the games sell at £7.99 for 16-bit versions and £3.99 for 8-bits).

BEG, BORROW

THREE WHEELERS

This week sees the software world rocked by the simultaneous release (more or less) of not one, not two, not four, not seventeen, not... (Get on with it – reader's voice), but three games all with a strong driving theme. Gremlin shows up with the long-awaited *Lotus Turbo Challenge 2*, MicroProse weigh in with its technically stunning *F1 Grand Prix*, and US Gold adds to the burden on the already-groaning shop shelves with the third game in the trillion-selling *Out Run* series, *Out Run Europa*. While the three are indeed all driving games, they all take radically different approaches to the theme.

BEG

F1 GRAND PRIX • MicroProse

This effort goes for the Indy 500 line, with polygon graphics and a serious simulation feel. A single race in *F1 GP*, using the shortest option available, is still likely to take you a good 20 minutes to complete, and this might deter the fast-action fans amongst you, which would be a terrible shame because this is a terrifyingly good game.

All the tracks are crammed with graphic detail, but everything still moves alarmingly quickly, and the minutiae of F1 racing have been captured to a level that's almost train spotter-like. Flag men, pitstops where you even get your windscreen wiped with a chamois, drivers pushing their broken-down cars off the track in the middle of the race, the whole deal, as well as everything Indy 500 fans would expect in the way of action replays, camera angles, etc.

Geoff Crammond, author of the frankly over-rated *Stunt Car Racer*, has really gone to town this time, and while he was there he's bought a driving game which is a dead-on certainty to achieve well-deserved legendary status within minutes.

BORROW

LOTUS TURBO ETC • Gremlin

Lotus Turbo etc is a sequel to the popular *Lotus Turbo Esprit Challenge* with a number of dinky new features added, such as the chance to drive two separate Lotus

• You'd never guess, but this is the desert level

COPYCAT CORNER

Fanatical disciples of this column may also be familiar with my scrawlings for *NCE*'s sister mag *Amiga Power* (the best-selling Amiga games magazine in the country, fact fans). If so, they may just remember a review [illegible] a game called *Challenge Golf* which I wrote in Issue Four of said organ. Imagine their surprise, then, to open this month's *CU Amiga* and see that very same review, practically word-for-word, reprinted on pages 24-25 in their so-called 'Readers Reviews' section (courtesy [illegible] one Peeyush Durani of Romford). Now I know imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but to my mind this [illegible] taking things just a little bit too far.

Games Week says: Thanks for the charming compliment [illegible] my journalistic qualities, everyone, but do your own slagging next time.

◆ ◆ ◆

PLAYING TIP

ELF • Ocean • Amiga and [illegible]

This funny little platform arcade adventure with the rather over-fussy graphics didn't do much for me when it was released a couple [illegible] months ago, but if you're a fan, you'll probably find this wee cheat quite handy. All you do is type 'CHOROPOO' at any time and you'll suddenly have 99 pets. Quite what use [illegible] pets are going to be, is a question only [illegible] fans will be able to satisfactorily answer.

◆ ◆ ◆

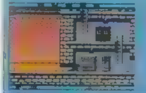
THE BLUES BROTHERS

Titus • Amiga and [illegible] • £25.99 £12.99 ★★★★★

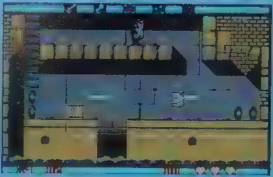
Titus. *The Blues Brothers*. What a combination, eh? A couple of fat old rockers and the software house responsible for some of the most appalling software ever to disgrace any machine anywhere in the world ever (*Crazy Cars*, *Crazy Cars 2*, *Dick Tracy*, *Fire And Forget*, that really duff one about the speedboats, the list is endless).

I approached this game with all the enthusiasm of a BMX Bandits fan going to a Guns n Roses gig, but (regular readers won't be in the least surprised to discover) I was to be proved utterly wrong by one of the most completely excellent games it's been my pleasure to review since I started this column.

The Blues Brothers is a very [illegible]-esque platform arcade romp, distinguished by fast, addictive gameplay, hilarious animation, excellent music and gorgeous cartoon graphics.



• Prison security - who needs it?



• No. 2 in a continuing series of sewer-based screen shots - Blues Bros

In look, feel and play it's something very close to perfect, and if you're a committed fan of Jake and Elwood (which I'm not by any stretch of the imagination) you may well form the opinion that this is the best game you've ever played.

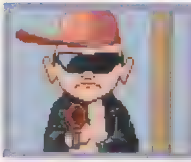
There isn't anything particularly devastating in the design or anything, but the level of execution in every area is just wonderful, and it makes this game so enjoyable to play that I actually came into work early several times this week just to sneak in a few quick games.

You might notice that I'm not giving you much specific detail about the actual game here, but there's a reason for that. A simple review is easy to dismiss, but pop into your friendly local software shop and take a look at this game for yourself. If you can walk back out without buying a copy of your own, then make your next stop a psychiatrist, because there's something wrong with your head.

TOP 10
ALL FORMATS BUDGET

[illegible]	*Bubble Bobble*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG OT
[illegible]	*New Zealand Story*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
[illegible]	*Dragon Ninja*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
[illegible]	*Batman The Movie*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG OT
[illegible]	*Shinobi*	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG [illegible]
[illegible]	*Indiana Jones Last Crusade*	Kixx	SP CO AM ST AG OT
NE	*[illegible] Outrun*	Kixx	SP CO AM AG
[illegible]	*Cabal*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
NE	*Shadow of the Beast*	Sizzlers	ST AG
10	*Moonwalker*	Kixx	SP CO AM ST AG OT

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum CO = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad OT = Other



BRAT • Imageworks • Amiga

To skip a level in this 'interesting' *Lemmings*-inspired scrolling maze thing, hold down 1, the full stop key, the slash key and the asterisk.

Stuart's Top Tip Of The Week – do it twelve times in a row and save yourself a lot of grief.

AND BURN SPECIAL

cars (the Esprit and the Elan), the ability to have up [illegible] four players at once through a modem link-up, and a wide range of weather conditions for drivers to race through.

The most pleasing improvement for me, though, is the use of the full screen in one-player mode, which lends the whole thing a much grander and more impressive air. *Lotus 2* shares its predecessor's immense playability, but the only significant difference between the games in play is the environmental element – beautifully-realised snow makes the cars slide around, fog and darkness affects your visibility, desert sand slows cars down, and deviating from the road [illegible] the swamplands can result in your vehicle sinking into a marsh.

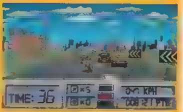
Now while I'm a great believer in the old maxim 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it', I'm far from convinced that Gremlin has done enough in *Lotus 2* to make it worth buying if you already own the original. If you don't, then don't miss this, but otherwise see it first.

BURN

OUT RUN EUROPA • US Gold

OK, so 'burn' is a bit of a strong word for this acceptable enough little game, but in the light of the competition *Out Run Europa* looks like a relic from a bygone age. The *Out Run* connection is an extremely tenuous one, as this game puts you in a whole series of vehicles from a motorbike to a jet ski, and the action takes place all over the continent, even including the Channel!

The game looks very pretty, with small but detailed graphics and a fair turn of speed, but it suffers from the twin flaws of being irritatingly difficult and almost uncontrollable. You don't get anything like the realistic handling of *Lotus 2* and particularly *F1 GP*, and as your bike or whatever careers ridiculously across the narrow tracks, you spend more time crashing than riding. You also can't go faster than some of the enemy vehicles, which causes some really annoying moments when they bash you around the road or even completely obscure your bike from view, and generally the overall design leaves a lot to be desired. It's almost a decent game, but in this market it's going to be completely crushed.



• As you can see, Out Run Europa is pretty, but not exactly 1991 state-of-the-art

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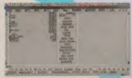
For the Amiga we have *Diskmaster*, an essential utility that makes previously complex disk operations almost second nature. It's partnered with *FastDir*, a handy easy-to-use CLI tool which speeds up the accessing of files.

PC owners are also well catered for. *Infoplus* is an impressive program which enables you to check every nook and cranny of your computer to see how it's set up. And for the game freaks out there we have *Jumpman Lives*, an incredibly addictive platform game.

AMIGA



• Using icons, *Diskmaster* makes disk operations easy

ST

• These are more than just pretty patterns – *Colourspace* is a complete psychedelic experience!

PC

• *Infoplus* displays your computer's configurations on-screen

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FEATURES EDITOR • Matthew Squires
ART EDITOR • Angela Neal
GAMES REVIEWER • Stuart Campbell

CONTRIBUTORS
• Jason Holborn • James Leach
• Rod Lawton • Paul Rigby
• Ian Wrigley • Haydn Fitz-Williams
• Ed Ricketts • Robin Alway
• Andrew Roberts • Neil Jackson
• Jason Saunders • Onn Lee

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR • Sue Hartley
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PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS
• Simon Windsor • Chris Stocker
• Jerome Clough
PUBLISHER • Steve Carey

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CONTACTS
Tel 0225 442244 Fax: 0225 446021
E-mail: #SPECTS: 081 792 0302
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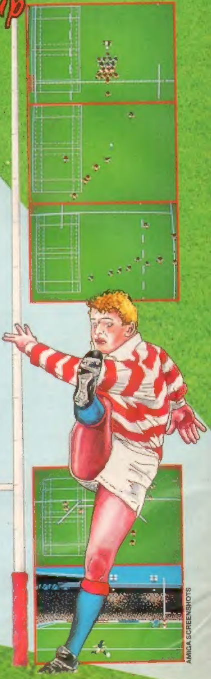

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